

Oklahoma Cemetery Directory

The Oklahoma Cemetery Directory has more than 4,500 Oklahoma cemeteries listed. Many have a picture, driving directions, and a brief history of the cemetery. Anyone wanting to trace their family tree in Oklahoma can hopefully find help in locating even the most obscure cemetery. If we don't have it, we would like to find it. We continue to expand the Oklahoma Cemetery Directory as more pictures and information are made available.

The 77 county books of the Oklahoma Cemetery Directory have been combined into 8 regional books. Each regional book contains several counties. Libraries may especially like a complete set of 9 books including the Master List of Oklahoma Cemeteries, which serves as an index for the regional books. The regional books make a complete set more affordable and take up less space on a library shelf.

The individual county books, as well as the regional books, are available with pages in color or grayscale. They can be hardbound or soft back.

The next objective of the OHCE Genealogy Group with proceeds from sales is to place the Oklahoma Cemetery Directory in the Library of Congress. To make that possible, fundraiser items are available for ordering from the website.

The Oklahoma Cemetery Directory is unique, constructed by OHCE members throughout the state. To our knowledge, no other state has compiled a list of all the cemeteries in their state with pictures, driving directions, and histories of the cemeteries. One of the first complete sets ordered by a "book jobber" was purchased by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one of the larger libraries in the nation. It is our understanding, some organization in that state may be in the process of doing something similar, inspired by what Oklahoma OHCE has done.

Description

Each of the 77 OHCE Oklahoma Cemetery Directory county books has an alphabetical list of cemeteries and where possible, a gate picture, a brief history about the cemetery, and driving directions.

Each of the 8 region books combine several counties, and has everything that is in those county books.

An additional book, the Oklahoma Master List of Cemeteries, which serves as an index to the 77 books, has been compiled. It contains 2 alphabetical lists: one of all the cemeteries in the Directory with legal descriptions, and one listing cemeteries by county.

The Oklahoma Cemetery Directory is available as a 4-disc CD pack, or a DVD that has everything that has been done. A single CD containing 2 regions can also be purchased. The digital format includes enlarged maps of each county. When viewed on a computer screen, they show more detail. There is also a list of monument companies.

The Cemetery Directory books have an 8" X 10" county map showing the location of each cemetery by name. Maps are Oklahoma Dept of Transportation county maps with cemetery locations and names added.

Order forms are available at this site for anyone wanting to purchase a book, CD, or DVD. Also you can search the alphabetical Master List of Oklahoma cemeteries.

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History

Several years of hard work have gone into the Oklahoma Cemetery Directory. Two ladies in Canadian County who worked in the Genealogy Section of the Carnegie Library in El Reno, OK, brought to the attention of the Oklahoma County Home and Community Education Genealogy Group in Oklahoma City the need to record transcriptions from cemetery tombstones. It was selected as a community service project by the Oklahoma County OHCE Genealogy Group in 1998. Early on, there was an assumption that a complete list of cemeteries throughout the county would be available someplace. After several failed attempts to find one, the group decided to compile their own.

Ann DeFrange's column in *The Oklahoman* featured the project on November 3, 1999. As a result, information began coming in from various sources. In 2001, a state-wide cemetery preservation goal to mark the beginning of a new millennium was designed for each county belonging to Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE) **to honor our dead by preserving the historic information on tombstones**. This information is disappearing with the ravages of time. It was also found that the locations of many small, isolated burial places were not even known, much less directions on how to get to them.

Much of Oklahoma's history was being lost because there was simply no record of many of the small cemeteries where ancestors are buried.

In 2003, the emphasis on tombstone transcriptions was re-directed by the state OHCE organization to concentrate on cemetery names. Each county in OHCE began working on a Cemetery Index for their county. The index was to have an alphabetical list of all cemeteries in the county, and where possible, a gate picture in color, a brief history of the cemetery and driving directions. Each county turned in its pages ready for binding. After much hard work, the result was a volume of 77 hardbound books in green leatherette with gold-embossing produced by Quality Binding in Cushing, OK.

The Oklahoma OHCE Cemetery Index manuscripts were originally completed November 4, 2005, and sent for binding into a volume of 77 County Cemetery Index books. These books were an approved Centennial Project and bore the Centennial logo. After being accessioned, the set of books were prominently displayed in the New Book Section of the History Center Research Library for OHCE Week, the first week in May 2006. This gift from the State OHCE organization was formally presented to Laura Martin, Director of the Oklahoma History Center Research Center and Dr. Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Director during a dinner and tour of the new Oklahoma History Center on Sunday evening during the 2006 OHCE State Conference by Freda Cunningham, Cemetery Coordinator, and State OHCE President Debra Stevenson.

Soon thereafter, the OHCE Board gave approval to have the manuscripts prepared for publication. Many additions, corrections, and elements of uniformity were added to what became the Second Edition of the Cemetery Indexes. Robert Smith took on the tedious assignment of preparing a county map for each county, pinpointing the cemetery locations by name. His companion Excel cemetery list of legal descriptions resulted in the compilation of a Master List of Oklahoma Cemeteries that serves as an index to the 77 county books. In addition to publishing the books in color, a 3-CD pack and a DVD were made available for sale. In March 2008, the Oklahoma OHCE state organization replaced the original set of books at the Oklahoma History Center Research Library with the Second Edition. The original books were returned to each OHCE county organization.

Beginning in 2009, the State OHCE Board turned over the cemetery project to the Oklahoma County OHCE Genealogy Group. It was decided to change the name of the Cemetery Index to the **Oklahoma Cemetery Directory, which was completed for publication June 19, 2010**. With the word "Index" in the title, many people thought the names of people buried in the cemeteries were listed. Very few are included in the manuscripts. The name was changed to "Directory" to better describe its contents.