

*Jerry McKelvy's*  
**SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

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**GARRETT AND JERRY**

I have a new grand nephew who will be one year old in a few days. Garrett is a good looking kid and his parents are doing their best to provide for his needs. In fact, they may be spoiling him a little bit. Hopefully, he will be blessed with a long and happy life. With all the problems in the world today, I wonder what he might face in his lifetime. I know it will be very different from that of his parents and grandparents.

Garrett was born into an age of much advancement in technology. Everything is computerized and new things are being developed all the time. I'm sure he will see some things in his lifetime that we can't even imagine today. I expect new medicines will be developed to help treat many diseases and maybe cures can be found for some of the terrible diseases we have today. Maybe the life expectancy will increase.

I also think about how the country will change in his lifetime. Each generation builds on the work of the last generation and the result should be a better way of life. I wonder if our generation has failed the younger generation. We have seen many changes in this country in the last fifty years and much of it was not for the best, in my opinion.

Many people have put aside basic moral teachings of their ancestors and have chosen a different path. Instead of working to improve their lot in life, many in our nation are more interested in what they can get without working for it. Our government is encouraging this way of thinking. It seems our government and courts are doing their best to remove any mention of God and anything religious from our society in the name of "separation of church and state". Church attendance has declined over the last twenty or thirty years and more and more children are now growing up without any religious influence in their lives. I think society will suffer because of this.

In my opinion, one of the darkest blemishes on the record of our generation is the acceptance of abortion. Since the Supreme Court ruled forty years ago in 1973 that it was legal, there have been 54,559,615 abortions in the United States, according to some estimates. Think about that number! That translates to 26,230 per week, 3,747 per day, or 156 per hour. Laws are passed by Congress and state legislatures on many controversial issues and these laws are interpreted by the courts. It is very important for people to choose carefully when voting for candidates. Check out a candidate's position on issues that concern you. I am amazed that many who complain about how things are going will continue to vote for those who helped pass the laws they complain about.

The demographics of the country are also changing. The Hispanic population is increasing rapidly in many places. When Garrett reaches age 31 in 2043, the Census Bureau predicts the white population in America will be in the minority. The number of Muslims is also increasing in America. Some want Islamist Sharia law to be accepted as the rule of law in this country and a federal judge recently ruled that Oklahoma cannot pass a law banning Sharia law in that state.

Life in America will be greatly influenced by the customs and religions of the people who inhabit the country in the years to come. The world Garrett grows up in will be a very different place.

Then I think of another baby named Jerry born in Nevada County in 1943, right in the middle of World War II. I was that baby. My father was away fighting in the Pacific during the first two years of my life. The news reports were filled with war news and major battles in far-off places. I think my family living around Bluff City in 1943 probably wondered what type world I might grow up in. When would the awful war and fighting end? Would the United States and the Allies prevail? Most all of the younger men in the community who were physically able were away from home in the service of their country and some never made it back home.

Then in August, 1945, word was received by radio that an atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima, Japan and three days later another dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. I'm sure my folks had no idea what type bomb this was and what destruction resulted from it, but they knew it was something never seen before. The weapons of war had changed overnight.

I lived through those events as any normal kid, more interested in playing with my toys than anything else. But I'm sure my folks wondered what type world I might grow up in just as I wonder what changes Garrett might see in his lifetime.

What has happened since I was born in 1943? Japan finally surrendered after the atomic bomb was used and our country tried to get back to normal after almost four years of war. Electricity came to the rural areas around Bluff City about 1946 which changed everything. There were many new inventions which made life easier. Then came the Korean War in the early 1950s and more young men went off to war. The 1950s brought rock and roll music and fancy automobiles with fins and white-wall tires. The older folks complained about the rock and roll music, the clothing and hair styles, and the way Elvis shook his hips. In 1955, it was announced that the vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk was effective in preventing the terrifying disease of polio. The country still had major problems during this time. The integration of the schools was one of the major issues when I was in high school. Some of our male teachers had to report for duty in September, 1957, when the National Guard was called out to enforce the integration of Central High School in Little Rock. We watched all this on our new TV sets, but it seemed far removed from our little corner of Nevada County. The country was changing right before our eyes and television brought it all into our living rooms.

We had the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 which brought us to the brink of a nuclear war with Russia. We learned later just how serious the situation really was. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 which shocked the nation. This was the period of the Vietnam War, a very unpopular war that lasted for about fifteen years in which thousands of Americans died. There were demonstrations on college campuses and race riots in some of the major cities. Many young people began experimenting with LSD and other drugs and this became a major problem. This caused an increase in crime and destroyed the lives of many young people.

The next big trouble spot was the Middle East which controls most of the world's oil supply. Ruthless dictators ruled some of these countries. Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, and 34 nations

led by the United States launched an attack on Iraq known as The Persian Gulf War or Desert Storm. Then on September 11, 2001, terrorists flew huge airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon killing almost 4,000 people. A third plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania when some heroic passengers tried to overpower the terrorists. A period of patriotism swept over America when people realized our country had been attacked and flags flew proudly for a while. It was determined that the terrorists were from Afghanistan and a war began which continues to the present time. Two years later in 2003, another invasion of Iraq was launched by 56 nations led by the United States. That war lasted until 2011.

Many of those responsible for the attack on America were captured or killed, but many American service men and women were also killed or wounded. Americans were subjected to strict security measures at airports and large public gatherings due to the threats of terrorism. Just recently we have heard reports of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The Middle East continues to be a very dangerous place inhabited by millions of Muslims, many of whom are intent on killing anyone who opposes them as they spread their religion throughout the world.

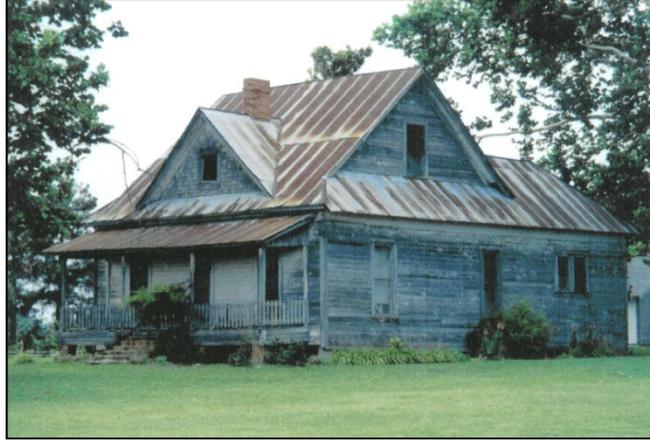
The seventy years since I was born have not been exactly peaceful. Over 375,000 Americans have been killed in wars during my lifetime and no telling how many of the enemy and civilian population were killed. We have several serious trouble spots in our world today. The weapons today are much more potent than even the atomic bomb of World War II. Things could get out of control very quickly.

Even as I wonder about what Garrett might see in his lifetime, I realize that all throughout our history in each generation, there have been problems between nations that often resulted in wars and fighting. You would think that people could learn to get along without killing each other, but it has been that way since the beginning of time when Cain rose up and slew his brother, Abel.

I think we have failed in many respects to teach our children the things that made this country great. The United States is a young country when you think about it—only about 237 years old. Many lives have been lost during our short history to bring us to where we are today. One web site says 1,312,612 Americans have died in wars since our country was founded and almost 3,000,000 wounded. Much blood has been shed protecting the freedoms we enjoy in this country. I can only hope and pray that we choose good leaders for our country and that they will use common sense and make wise decisions realizing that their actions will affect the course of history and the lives of many people. There will always be evil people in the world and sometimes tough decisions must be made to protect our way of life and to avoid complete anarchy in the world.

I hope Garrett lives his life in a more peaceful world, but judging from past history, I expect his generation will face many difficult periods just as ours did. I wish him well on his journey through life. I hope his generation does a better job than the last one.

I offer this quote from President Ronald Reagan: “Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known”.



The Sandyland Chronicle Restoration Award goes to Jody Nelson, his brothers, and the contractors who made this old home a show place once again. The last occupants of this home were Lige Barlow and his wife, Elvie. The home was built over a hundred years ago and is situated overlooking the level fields of what is now the Arkansas Forestry Commission Seed Orchard on Hwy. 299 near Bluff City. This is the only two-story house still standing anywhere around Bluff City. The inside looks just as nice as the outside.

Mr. Barlow was a justice of the peace and I have heard about several couples being married by him in this house or perhaps on the front porch.

I'm always glad to see old buildings restored and made useful once again. Congratulations on a job well done.



## WHAT IS IT?

Let me know in the next few days if you know what this contraption is.

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After a dry spell lasting 51 days, we finally got a good rain on September 20<sup>th</sup> followed by some cooler weather. The sandy land around Bluff City got about seven inches of rain and the deep sand sucked it up like a sponge. While we were celebrating such a good rain, people in Colorado were dealing with the effects of very serious flooding.

**September rainfall at my house—5.4 inches**

**Total for the year—33.9 inches**

Hunters are busy getting ready for the upcoming deer season. They are repairing old deer stands and putting up new ones, planting food plots, putting up game cameras to check out the prospects, and getting their deer camps ready. I have seen many deer grazing along the highways recently. The long period of dry weather was hard on wild animals as their food supply became scarce.

Pat Weaver, age 81, of Magnolia passed away September 18<sup>th</sup>. She was Dean of Women at Southern State College when I was there and was also a former teacher at Camden. She was born in Waterloo in Nevada County to Luther Weaver and Vida Polk Weaver. She was one of my email contacts and always read *The Sandyland Chronicle*. She will be missed. Here is a recipe she sent for The Sandyland Cookbook in 2009.

### Sweet Potato Casserole

3 cup sweet potatoes (cooked)  
2/3 cup milk  
2 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 stick oleo  
1/2 teaspoon salt

**Topping**  
1/2 cup flour  
1/2 cup oleo  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup nuts  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix potatoes and oleo. Add eggs, then rest of ingredients. Mix and crumble topping on top of potato mixture. Bake @ 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

## THE JOHN GULLEY PLANTATION

The area around Bluff City in Nevada County, Arkansas was first settled about 1850 as settlers began to move westward from the eastern states. The U. S. government encouraged settlers to move into the undeveloped land purchased from France in 1803 (the Louisiana Purchase) which included what is now Arkansas.

Most of the homesteads were relatively small, but some well-to-do men managed to accumulate quite a large amount of land. One of these men was John Gulley, Sr., a planter from Alabama. John Gulley was born in 1788 in North Carolina. He married Nancy Bizzell in 1809 and they moved to Alabama about 1817. John and Nancy had fourteen children (ten boys and four girls). The couple decided to move further west in the mid-1840s and settled in Ouachita County, Arkansas. Their land became part of Nevada County in 1871 when Nevada County was formed.

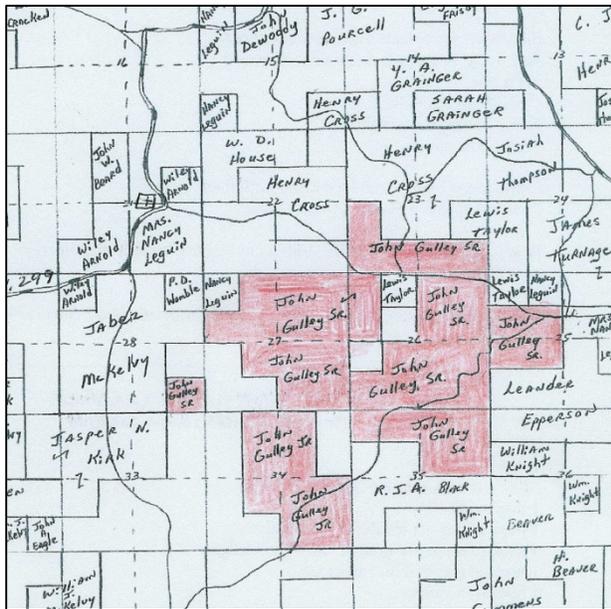
In 1861, he and his son, John Jr., owned 2000 acres in one large tract just east of Ebenezer Cemetery plus other holdings further east. A large part of this land was fairly level, well drained, and well suited for growing cotton, the main crop at that time. The cotton could be sold in Camden which was only about sixteen miles from John Gulley's plantation.

I'm sure slave labor was used on his plantation and that many "hands" were required to plant and harvest the cotton crop on such a large farm. Many of the Negroes who worked on this plantation remained in the area after slavery ended and most took the name Gulley for their last name. Many of their descendants still live in the area.

John Gulley, Sr. died in 1865 just after the Civil War ended and is buried in the Gulley family cemetery which is located on the old plantation. He was 77 at the time of his death and Nancy lived until 1870. Their sons and grandsons continued to farm the land for many years.

The small Gulley family cemetery contains 27 marked graves (ten with the surname Gulley, eight with Purifoy, and five with Epperson). The last burial there was in 1930. Over time the cemetery became overgrown with brush.

When I was a teenager, I used to ride the old roads through the old Gulley plantation especially just before Christmas when I was looking for the perfect cedar tree for our Christmas tree. I never came upon the old Gulley cemetery and didn't even know it existed until the mid-1990s when I started recording cemeteries in Nevada County. Then I got interested in genealogy and started doing some family research. It turns out that some of the Gulley men married Kirks and Henrys, so I am distantly related to some of the Gulley descendants. My great-great grandfather, Jabez McKelvy, and my great grandfather, Jasper Newton Kirk, even had some land that joined the old Gulley plantation.



This map shows land ownership in 1861. John Gulley's land is shown in red. Some of the original plantation is now part of the Poison Springs State Forest, but some of the western part of the old plantation was owned by Gulley descendants until 1979. About that time International Paper Co. was looking for a suitable place for a pine seedling nursery. They needed a place that was well-drained and fairly level with sandy loam soil. After considering several tracts of land, they decided that the old John Gulley plantation met their requirements. They negotiated with all the different landowners and purchased a large part of the old plantation in 1979.

Construction of the nursery soon began. Fields had to be leveled and prepared for planting. An irrigation system had to be installed to water the young seedlings. An agreement was worked out with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to pipe water from White Oak Lake to the nursery, a distance of about three or four miles. Ponds were also constructed as a backup source for water and a natural spring was also used. A packing shed, an office, and a residence for the nursery manager were constructed. By 1982, the nursery was producing a good crop of pine seedlings.

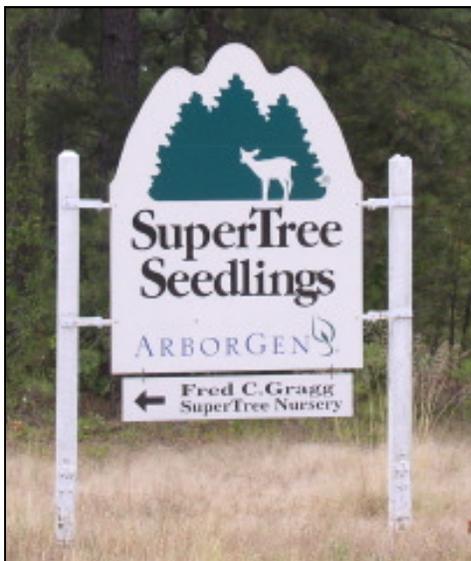
Eighteen years later, the nursery, which had been named the Fred C. Gragg Supertree Nursery, had produced one billion pine seedlings. A big celebration was held in October, 2000 with all local employees of International Paper attending. Speeches were made and a good meal was provided by the company.

A billion trees is a lot of trees. That's enough trees to plant 1,834,862 acres of land. If you plant a tree every ten feet, you would plant 528 trees per mile. Since the distance across the United States is about 3370 miles, that would be enough trees to plant 673 rows of trees completely across the United States. And the nursery has been continually producing more trees since 2000, so the number of trees that have been produced on the old John Gulley plantation is almost impossible to comprehend.

International Paper Co. and some other companies combined their resources in 2007 and formed a company called Arbor-Gen which specializes in genetic forestry research. Nurseries and employees were combined into this new company which has facilities in several southern states and in some foreign countries.

The same land John Gulley planted in cotton over 150 years ago is now being used as a modern farm growing young pine seedlings to reforest thousands of acres of timberland. I think John Gulley would be proud.

When the land was sold to IP for the nursery, it was stipulated in the deed that the company would maintain and protect the old Gulley family cemetery. An African-American cemetery known as St. John Cemetery is also located on the old Gulley plantation about a mile south of the Gulley cemetery. Sixteen graves in the cemetery have the surname Gulley and the earliest marked grave is dated 1903. This cemetery is still active today. Union Grove Cemetery near Bluff City has 77 burials with the surname Gulley. I'm sure many of these are descendants of some of the African-American slaves who once worked on the Gulley plantation.



A book has been written by Paul John called [John Gulley Genealogy--A Planter in Alabama and Arkansas and His Descendants](#). This book gives the complete history of the Gulley family. Copies are available at the Ouachita County Library and at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, AR.

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**A Day That Lasts For Memories**  
**By Barbara Lyerly**

Oh, the wonderful days of the forties, fifties and sixties! Some would say that today is the “good old days”. This may very well be true, but remembering the times of our lives when the pace was slower, where there was the camaraderie of small town life, and the knowledge that morals and values were taught and practiced makes for sweet nostalgia as we reach the twilight times of our lives.

Go on a little trip with me. Let's go back in time to our hometown of Chidester, Arkansas population around 500 souls. There is a fine school. There are all the necessities of life: grocery stores, a drug store, a doctor, cafes, a bus station, a telephone office, a hardware, a post office, several service stations and mechanic shops, two large sawmills, a telephone office, a shoe cobbler, a hotel, several beauty "parlors", lots of farmers large and small, a tie yard, a very busy railroad depot, several churches, and many, many people who cared for each other.

Early in the morning as you walk to school, or go by on the school bus, you will see a group of men standing outside the post office talking, laughing, and making plans for the day. Some days they are quiet and solemn; maybe they are discussing the war. Some days they are boisterous as they con some small child (me) into going into the telephone booth by Mrs. Pauline Beaver's Café where they had put a sullied up 'possum! You might see several trucks come through hauling beautiful logs to be made into lumber or small "billets" that will be made into paper. Children are walking to school from all directions. Each has a quarter for lunch and a nickel for milk at recess. Maybe you will see the big red bus stop and pick up people who are going to Camden or some other exotic place.

According to the time of year you might be able to buy some wonderful vegetables and fruits from farmers who have come into town in their wagons to sell their produce. You might go down to the Clingan Trading Post and buy a live chicken or two, or some eggs or hoop cheese. The Mercantile would love to sell you shoes, fabric and patterns to make a new dress, delicious meats and canned goods. You could visit Mr. Bob Bray and get a super dandy haircut from a true gentleman of the old South. The Gillespie's Store had many intriguing items for sale along with groceries. Once I saved my money and purchased my mother a pair of baby doll pajamas for her birthday. They were red silky material with black lace trim. I thought they were beautiful. She didn't agree! Dr. Rushing might take a look at your poison ivy and say, "Tut, tut, tut, you need to stay out of that stuff". You could watch as Mr. Cross Epperson's crew stacks cross ties in perfectly geometrical cubes. You could go by the bank and borrow some money, or visit with Mr. Garland Rushing, or Bill Clingan or John Chester Clingan. According to the year you are there you might meet Mr. Clifton Stinnett or H. B. Yarbrough. Mr. Mike Rowe would love to sell you some feed, or work on your car. G. W. Kilpatrick would welcome you to his station and Mrs. Ruby might cook you some fish and hushpuppies if you get there for lunch. If not, you could go to the Lee Hotel and "room and board" would find you eating a grand meal and meeting new friends. Mr. Tom Benton's market would be a great stop to buy some fresh food for your evening meal. Mr. Watson Roll would be available to fix your radio and later on, your television.

If you stay long enough you might see the Chidester Volunteer Fire Dept. in action. You might even be there when the Holleman-Dickinson Lumber Co. caught fire and even the teenage boys at school were released to go and fight the fire. The new fire truck is a beautiful shiny example of the American automotive

industry. If you have enough time this afternoon you could tour the Bradford Cotton Gin. It was an amazing machine. Later in years it was a cucumber-grading shed for a big pickle company. Oh, I hope you come in the summer time and can go to the McGill peach orchard and just make yourself sick on the scrumptious peaches. You can gain a pound just smelling the wonderful smell. You could always stop by the Ouachita or Little Missouri Rivers and take a quick swim!

There will be lots of new friends to meet since everyone's grandchildren come to visit in the summer. The Aarants have beautiful girls, so do the Coxes. Mrs. Elsie Sweatman always has teenagers who speak "Yankee"! The Eppersons and Stinnetts and many others host city kids who love to come to Chidester.

If you visit after the advent of "rock and roll" you might have a great time at the Teen Town in the American Legion Hut. Mrs. Ruby Kilpatrick and Mrs. Sally Singleton gave up their Saturday nights for many years to chaperone teenage dances. In the summer time you might be there for a street dance if the kids can talk Mr. Ed Rushing into pushing his jukebox outside and feeding it quarters so everyone can dance. Other times you might just see a dozen cars parked in a circle with all the radios on the same station! Hope you don't get talked into stealing watermelons! Mr. Charlie Wheelington doesn't condone that behavior.

Hope you are there long enough to see Mr. Guffy put the mail out on a hook for a train to "catch" when it comes through. It's exciting to see the evening passenger train come through with the windows lighted and many people dressed up and going to Chicago, St. Louis or even Little Rock. That "call of the wild" probably drew many of us away from our simple little world into what we thought was a better life.

So, you've spent a day in Chidester. This day spans many a year. This day will never come again, but the memories in our hearts allow us to drag it out and live it over and over and celebrate the wonderful people who made up our world.

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## NOTICE

I have decided to return to a monthly paper instead of one every two weeks. It just works better for me. The next issue will be the November issue and will be out near the end of October. Some have said they are having trouble getting the web site to work. If for some reason you can't open it, here are a couple of things you can do:

1. You can always just do a search for "sandyland chronicle" and it should take you to the web site.
2. You can send me an email and I will then send it to you direct by email.

## WHAT IS IT?



The item shown in the last issue is an early gasoline engine. Some of these type engines are called “hit and miss engines” and could be used to operate various things around the farm, including some of the early washing machines. This one was made by International Harvester and was used by my father in the late 1940s to operate a pea thresher. A belt was attached to the pea thresher and to the large wheel on the side of this engine and this furnished the power to the threshing machine. The gasoline tank is underneath the engine. Water is put in the reservoir on top.

My father hauled the pea thresher and engine around in his truck to neighboring farms to thresh their dry peas. All this was done when I was a small child and I don't really remember it in operation. The pea thresher was stored in our barn for many years and became a good home for the local rat population. The engine is now collecting dust out in the storage shed.

Those who guessed the right answer were Quentin and Shirley Tolby, Perry Westmoreland, Billy Joe Meador, and Vernell Loe,

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### **From the files of *The Nevada News*—October, 1931**

The Ozan Mercantile in Prescott advertised 48 pounds of Eskimo flour for 85 cents and 25 pounds of sugar in a cloth bag for \$1.23.

Hwy. No. 2 is open from Texarkana to Mississippi. It is paved to Garland City, gravel between Garland City and the Columbia County line, paved from there to El Dorado, and the rest is gravel.

A steamer left Camden with 400 bales of cotton bound for New Orleans. This is the first time in a quarter century that Camden has again become the center of cotton shipping on the Ouachita River. Six thousand bales are in Camden awaiting shipment.

The 282 service station in Prescott is now open 24 hours per day.

The inventor, Thomas Edison, died Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84.

The Prescott Hardware opened an annex to the store for the sale of used goods. It was formerly occupied by the bowling alley of Guthrie Drug Store in the Waller building.

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There are about forty cemeteries in the western states with the name “Boot Hill Cemetery”. The most famous is in Dodge City, Kansas. It is believed the name comes from the fact that so many gunfighters died violently in gunfights or by hanging and thus “died with their boots on”.