

# Pisgah and Greenwood School of Days Gone

## By As Related By Wade Shipley

For what it's worth my g g grandmother was the first white woman to be buried in the Pisgah area. I believe that was 1819.

My grandmother was Olive Gertrude Howard. She was born on 30 Nov 1877 just a few miles from Greenwood school location and lived in Cooper County all of her life; except for a few years in California, Mo. She is buried in the Pisgah cemetery.

Gertrude married Thomas Medford Odneal Christmas day 1895. I have a newspaper clipping announcing the marriage. It was never talked about in the family, but I think he walked off shortly after Mother was born on January 20, 1897. The short time they lived together was on the farm of Gertrude's parents, T. H. F. and Permelia Dale Howard.

Gertrude later married Charlie Owen in 1904. For a short time they lived in south Missouri but later on a small farm adjoining the Howards to the east on Pisgah Creek.

Charlie was born in 1866 and drowned in 1937. They never were sure just what happened, but he was found not too far from their house in Pisgah Creek. He might have had some kind of seizure and fell into the creek. Shortly after that Mother took a house in California, Missouri, and Grandma moved to town. She died in 1965 in Hobbs, New Mexico where the Fergusons lived and was taken back to Pisgah for burial.

Grandmother Owen was a charter member of the Pisgah Community Club. It was founded on November 22, 1921 in the home of Mrs. Lula Hunt. It was at

the suggestion of Mrs. Chas Owen that the Club be formed. I have a clipping that Grandma wrote on the 25th anniversary of the founding from the California Democrat. It tells the charter members. The oldest member at that time was Gertrude's Mother, Mrs. Permelia Howard, 92 years.

My mother was Grace Owen and she married William Shipley. He was always called Wade-as am I. My father died while attending Columbia University in NYC when I was a year old in 1926 of typhoid fever. Afterwards Mother taught school in Boonville, and we lived mostly with the Grandpa Shipleys there. Part of the time I stayed with Grandma Owen and Mother would come out on week ends.

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This apparently went on for 3- 4 years. During the building of the pump station that we know about some of the workmen stayed with folks in the area. It seems that William Ray Ferguson, an Oklahoma welder, boarded with the Owens. He and Mother became acquainted and were married June 6, 1930. Consequently he was the only Father I ever knew. He said the only reason he and Mother got married was because as was normal she had two or more flat tires driving from Boonville to the farm, and said that's the last flat I'm going to fix. I'll marry the next man I meet.

I talked to a cousin a bit ago. She could not remember much more then I know. There is a picture cut from a newspaper-maybe the Bunceton Eagle-showing her Father and his two brothers and others who attended the Greenwood school. But we don't remember anything about the squabble. That was about 5 years before the grade cards, so Grandmother might not have heard. I believe my Grandmother recalled riding horseback with siblings going to school. I know she was so proud of having learned the three Rs. I think they only went through the 8th grade.

The cousin went to Pisgah grade school then to Prairie Home to high school. She walked over to another cousin's house, then rode with him to Prairie

GREENWOOD SCHOOL			
REPORT OF			
M. J. Eastwick Howard			
For the Month ending September 1893			
Studies	Grade	Studies	Grade
Reading		Men. Arithmetic	
Spelling	94	Written "	96
Writing	93	Physiology	96
Grammar	92	Elocution	
Geography		Civil Government	
U. S. History	94	Drawing	
Days Present			19
Times Tardy			5
Department			100

100 signifies highest standing.  
W. A. McDOWELL,  
Teacher.

Home. If you don't have the Greenwood school location I think we can help on that. He did say they at one time they attended the Baptist church in Pisgah, but there was some kind of trouble, and they stopped going. She said the "Morris" ran that church and perhaps her Dad got crosswise with them. Knowing her Dad I can believe that.

When I was very young-like 5 in 1930-I remember going to Christmas parties at the church. There was always something under the tree for everybody. Grandmother's house was about 3 miles SE of Pisgah. Most of her siblings lived within 2 or 3 miles.

There is a pipeline pumping station in that area? It was 2 miles east and one mile south of Pisgah. An oil pipeline was laid from Oklahoma to near Chicago. The station was built to push the oil along.

This station was just across the fence from an uncle's house. He gave the company water before they drilled their own water well. He also helped in other ways, so the company partially wired his house for electricity. It was the first house in the whole area with electric lights. I remember people coming to see such a marvelous thing. Especially after living with coal oil lamps. There would be three table Rook games. I would go to bed.

My uncle Truman W. Howard's, Uncle Tru, farm was just south across the fence from the pumping station. The last time I was there, maybe 10-12 years ago the house was still standing. As I said earlier the company partially wired his house for the help he gave them. Uncle Tru and Uncle Bob (T. R. Howard) use to take me to Pisgah store for candy.

What a treat for a 6 year old. There was a croquet grounds adjoining the store. This was a big past time for the locals. Most men had their own private mallet. Across the road south from the store was a big house owned by Cliff Hunt. I correspond with a niece of his who now lives in Jeff City. She remembers my birth. It was evidently a big event because my parents were married for 7 years before I came. I was the only Shipley male child in the family. This lady Nancylea Hunt remembers being told that there was a Howard ancestor buried on Cliff's property south 1/2 mile from the store. Uncle Tru had pointed it out to me. But it was never marked so the exact location is lost.

Back in the early days--maybe in the 1930s there was a phone system of sorts in the area. This was the crank type with long and short rings. Grandmother and her sister, Christine Woods, would try to talk which usually meant they would have to yell. Uncle would say that Gert an Tine would yell so loud they really did not need the phone. They could just stick their heads out the door.

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