

# *First Families of the Cherokee Nation*

*Newsletter Winter 2010*

## **Welcome from Gene Norris FFCN Coordinator!**

A great egwa osiyo nigada! A hardy welcome to all of the members of First Families of the Cherokee Nation. This marks the first issue of the quarterly newsletter under the osta editorship of Ben Chasenah.

Just as we have our annual reunion on the Sunday of the Cherokee National Holiday each Labor Day weekend, Ben had a great idea to keep all of the members up-to-date on happenings at the Cherokee Family Research Center, the Cherokee Heritage Center and the First Families organization.

This newsletter will keep current members of the FFCN informed as to the newest members as well as abreast of any exciting new acquisitions made as a result of your generous donations to the library.

In each issue we will highlight an ancestor of one of our members as well as readers comments, members' stories of their ancestors, and much more. We look forward to being able to keep in touch with our members on a quarterly basis. Please enjoy!

## **First Families of the Cherokee Nation News**

As of the date of this publication we have 860 First Family members, with recent inductions descending from Tah-yaw-naw-hun-le, James Boles, Nancy Ward and Zeralda Yarnell.

We would like to invite members to send the editor a short biography of yourself and your family to include in our spotlight section at [benjamin-chasenah@cherokee.org](mailto:benjamin-chasenah@cherokee.org). Thank you to Tonia Hogner-Weavel for contributing to this edition.

If you haven't visited the Cherokee Heritage Center's website lately the membership of the FFCN is displayed. Check it out at [www.cherokeeheritage.org](http://www.cherokeeheritage.org) and go to **Genealogy**, then to **First Families** and follow the link on the bottom of the page.

A new shipment of FFCN pins were delivered to the Cherokee Heritage Center recently and are available for a donation of \$5.00. Contact Gene at [genealogy@cherokeeheritage.org](mailto:genealogy@cherokeeheritage.org) or call the Center at 888-999-6007 for your pin.

## *FFCN Tidbit:*

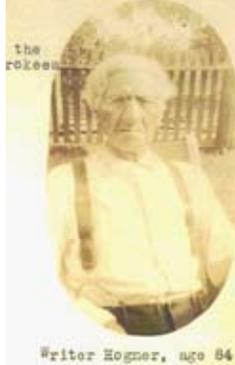
*In 2003, the first reunion of the First Families of the Cherokee Nation was held on the grounds of the Cherokee Heritage Center at the Adams Corner Rural Village. Adams Corner is named for Blanche Keeler Adams, the mother of K. S. "Bud" Adams, a First Families member and direct descendant of Nancy Fields Blythe. The Adams family have been FFCN members since 1997.*



## Member Spotlight

by Tonia Hogner-Weavel, descendant of Wrighter Hogner

My children, Wrighter Redbird (b 1996) and Parker Star Weavel (b 1997) and I (b 1956) became First Family members (#'s 575-577) in 2004. We chose one common ancestor, Wrighter Hogner (b 1843; d 1930).



My father, Jeff Hogner, (b 1920; d 1987) was born in Adair County, Fairfield Community and attended Maryetta Elementary School and Chilocco Indian School. After military service during WWII, he moved to Hardesty, Ok (near Guymon in the panhandle) to work for Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company where he was recruited to pitch on their company baseball team and in turn was employed 38 years. My mother, Floriene Grimmer Hogner (b 1921; d 1987) a pioneer descendant, born and raised in Texas County, OK, married my dad in 1947. My brother, Jeffery Lynn Hogner (b 1948; d 2008) and I were children of Oklahoma and Indian Territory parents – true Oklahoma hybrids!

My paternal grandfather, Adam Hogner (b 1887; d 1939) worked for the WPA and died of tick fever when my dad was 19 years old. Adam and Katie Ketcher had eleven children of which I am fortunate to have four living aunts and uncles. Adam's parents, Wrighter (b 1843; d 1930) and Charlotte Fishinghawk Hogner (b 1845; d 1902) were the first generation of children born after the Trail of Tears.

Wrighter Hogner's parents, Ellis Hogner (b 1820; d 1893) and Nancy (Nani Denahlawistah; b 1820; d 1854) would have been the family that experienced the removal. I know they lived in north Georgia and have often wondered if gold was discovered on or near their property. Unfortunately little else is known about them.

After the removal, the Hogner's settled in Flint and Goingsnake Districts. Their allotments were in the Fairfield and Peavine communities north of Stilwell. I am happy to say that the house on the home place allotment is still in the family with my cousin living in the house where my dad was born. He enjoys indoor plumbing (I used the outhouse) and continues to raise a large garden and collect the hickory nuts from the tree out back.

My family has a long and delightful history filled with funny stories, tragedies rarely spoken of and a legacy of Hogners to live for generations to come. I am proud to be a Hogner Woman and proud to have two young Hogner men to raise. I am also proud to be a First Families of Cherokee Nation member and share my history with others.

## Reunion 2009

This year at the Seventh Annual First Families of the Cherokee Nation reunion we had a total of 45 attendees from all across the United States. The reunion was held during the weekend of the Cherokee National Holiday in Park Hill, Cherokee Nation.

We gathered together at the Ho-Chee-Nee Chapel on the grounds of the Cherokee Heritage Center to break bread and enjoy one another's company. The organization heard a presentation by Roy Hamilton, President of the Cherokee Arts and Humanities Council and Cherokee Heritage Center Board member. Roy spoke on Cherokee culture before European contact. The council also provided a hog fry complete with beans, gadu and potatoes. Everyone was full and content!

Members brought deliciously prepared dishes and desserts. We had financial contributions from near and far. The FFCN members gave a total of \$570 dollars in donations to the First Families of the Cherokee Nation program. The event was a complete success and we could not have had such a great time without the ga-du-gi of the First Families' membership.

The staff of the Cherokee Family Research Center and Cherokee Heritage Center would like to say a big thank you to all the attendees and well wishers. We look forward to next year's reunion. Wado!



### **Cherokee Family Research Center**

Cherokee Heritage Center

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