

## LAY MEMBER MARKER UNVEILED

June 9, 1940 at Mt. Albion Cemetery, town of Albion, Orleans Co., N.Y. by Orleans Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Bertha Baldwin Patten wife of Charles Patten of Albion, N.Y. dau. of Daniel Baldwin b. June 17, 1833, d. at Albion, N.Y. m. May 19, 1856 Ellen Tinker of Pitcher, N.Y.

Daniel was son of Elisha Baldwin b. Aug. 11, 1786, m. Martha (Patty) Spaulding b. Aug. 26, 1792, both of Stonington, Ct. Martha was daughter of Dr. Asa Spaulding b. Oct. 6, 1751, a surgeon in the Revolutionary War.

Elisha was son of Ziba Baldwin b. Feb. 16, 1755, a patriot of the American Revolution. Both Dr. Asa Spaulding and Ziba Baldwin were residents of Stonington, Conn. during the American Revolution.

BERTHA BALDWIN PATTEN  
Historical sketch by  
Bessie and Nelson Wickham  
read at unveiling of marker.

Bertha E. Baldwin was born in Albion, the youngest child of Daniel and Ellen Tinker Baldwin, who came to this vicinity in 1865 from Chenango Co., N.Y.

She was a descendant of the following persons who came to America on the Mayflower: Wm. Brewster, John Howland, John and Elizabeth Tilly, John, Ellen, and Frances Billington.

Later on descendants of some of these families were among the first of those who went into the Connecticut River valley and amid hardships and trouble with Indians laid the foundations of the colony of Connecticut. One of these, John Mason, deserves especial mention as he was the first to rally the men and boys and lead them against the Pequots, who were burning homes and killing the settlers. It was due largely to him that these Indians were driven out of this region. A number of this branch of the family are buried at Stonington, Conn.

She was a descendant of a number of soldiers of the American Revolution, two of whom were Amos Brown and Dr. Asa Spaulding.

Her early life was spent in Albion and she received her education in the Albion Public schools and at Albion High School.

She was married in 1900 to Chas. Patten who survives her as does a daughter, Irma Patten Taylor.

She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Eltekon Class, and Missionary Societies and was active in all of these as well as in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Orleans Co. Child Welfare Board and other organizations to which she has belonged.

She was noted for her cheerfulness, her never failing sense of humor, and her talent as a writer of verses.

Always helpful to others and active to the last she refused to talk about her illness but spoke hopefully of being better soon.

Patton  
Family

**INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS**  
**Business Life In Early Indian Territory Days**  
**Vol. 3 page 490**

**Given by his daughter, Mrs. F. B. Fite**  
**North 16th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma**

William C. Patton was born August 1, 1829, twenty five miles from Ashville, North Carolina, in Buncom County. He was the youngest of fourteen children. His father was a wealthy land and slave owner. His family consisted of seven boys and seven girls.

The same house in which he was born is still standing. He grew to manhood on the farm and then went to Lafayette, Georgia, and engaged in the mercantile business with his older brother.

He was married to Jane Davis, a Cherokee girl, on May 1, 1861.

He enlisted in the Confederate Army at the beginning of the war and served the entire time. He was in the battle of Atlanta.

With every one else living in the state of Georgia, they lost everything they possessed but they were undaunted, he and his plucky wife moved to the farm where they stayed two years. Here he made good use of his early training on the farm and was able in two years to again enter the mercantile business in the thriving little town of Ringold, Georgia.

Hearing of the splendid opportunities in the fast developing west, he brought his family to Springfield, Missouri, in 1874. Here, he again engaged in the mercantile business until 1879.

Mrs. Patton, being of Cherokee blood, naturally wanted to live among her own people.

Vinita was a thriving little town in the Cherokee Nation of about fifteen hundred inhabitants. They moved there and he again engaged in the mercantile business.

As that was the terminal of the Frisco railroad and there were no towns west and none on the north nearer than Chetopa, Kansas; and as Muskogee was the nearest town on the south, Vinita drew its trade from a wide radius.

Mr. Patton opened his business in a small frame building but set about at once to build for the future.

Seeing the possibilities of the undeveloped country, he erected a building of native sand stone which is still standing. It contains several rooms which housed the numerous departments of his general merchandise stock. It consisted of dry goods, grocery, and hardware department. There was also a drug store in the building. He carried farm machinery, saddles and harness.

Each department had an efficient manager, together with competent salesmen to carry on the business.

A registered pharmacist was employed in the drug store.

Mrs. Patton was a co-worker in the business and his most able assistant, doing all the buying for the dry goods department. She made trips to St. Louis as often as necessary to replenish the stock, as the people of Vinita were people of wealth and culture and the bust that could be bought was none to good for them.

Wealthy cattlemen's families lived there, although they spent a great deal of their time on the ranches in the tall grass regions in the northern part of the Territory.

After the Frisco railroad was built west, Mr. Patton opened a branch store at Catoosa, Indian Territory, which he operated for several years. The manager of the store was killed by a robber one night and he sold out the store.

Vinita was the home of Mr. W. E. Halsell, a rich cattleman from Texas, who was an intermarried Cherokee citizen. His large brick home is still standing and is being used as a home for his son, Ewing.

Mr. and Mrs. Patton were identified with every enterprise tending toward the upbuilding of the town and were true and loyal supporters of the Methodist church.

They were loved and trusted by their patrons and their store became a common meeting place for their country friends.

The Patton family occupied the spacious apartment, beautifully furnished, on the second floor of the building; where their three daughters delighted to entertain their friends.

COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



# Postcards from the Ages



All written to my great uncle Keith Thronson 1908 and 1909  
when he was in the hospital in Kansas City.  
Contributed by Linda Stout

It was, indeed, a treat to be invited to dinner at Mrs. Patton's, as she ran here culinary department in true Southern style and her hospitality was widely known.

Possessing a fine business acumen, Mr. Patton was able to build up a prosperous business from which he realized satisfactory profits, which enabled him to retire in 1900.

Their three daughters had previously married. Mrs. F. B. Fite is the only one now living.

They built a comfortable home on North 16th Street and moved to Muskogee. Mr. Patton died in 1909.



Mr and Mrs. William C. Patton

From "The Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men",  
by H.F. & E. S. O'Beirne. 1892

## INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS

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### Pioneer Women of Indian Territory

Mrs. Jane Davis Patton

Given by Mrs. F. B. Fite, N. 16th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma

Mrs. Patton, wife of William C. Patton, was born in McLemore Cove, Georgia in 1841. She was of Cherokee parentage, being related to the noted Fields family. She attended school at Lafayette, Georgia. Although she was reared by wealthy parents in the days of negro servants, she proved, as many other Southern women did, that she was far from being helpless.

Losing all they possessed during the Civil War, she was down but certainly not out. By her native ability and keen perception of business with her untiring energy she was able to assist her husband in retrieving their lost fortune.

The house in which she was born is still standing on the battle field of Chickamauga. It showed the marks of a cannon ball which passed through it during the battle.

She came with her husband to Vinita in 1879, where they made their home until they moved to Muskogee in 1900.

She was the moving spirit of the Methodist church at Vinita and gave liberal assistance to the church.

Life in the Indian Territory was primitive in those days but she readily adapted herself to conditions and set about to make the community a better place in which to live. While she was busily engaged in helping her husband in the store and caring for her family her mind was also on things that should be done for others.

The Sunday school was her chief interest in church work.

Being a woman of unusual culture and refinement she counted her friend among the highest as well as the lowest.

There are many things of civic pride in Vinita today, the beginning of which can be traced to her untiring efforts. She died in Muskogee a few years after her husband's death.

# William Greeneberry Russell

By Virginia Vann Perry

His full name is William Greeneberry Russell – he was known to his family and friends and has come down in history as “Green Russell”. Green’s father, James Russell, settled his family in Hall County, Georgia, in 1824 not far from the Cherokee line. They were living there when gold was discovered on Cherokee land. Two towns sprang up – Auraria and Dahlonega.

Dahlonega became the county seat of Lumpkin County and site of the U. S. mint. By the time Green was 12 years old he accompanied his father on mining or surveying trips. He learned how to pan gold first by hand by watching his father and gained skill in handling surveying instruments. By age 14 he was accounted a man with experience and responsibility. His father leaned heavily on him in working his claims. James Russell died in 1835 and Green, at age 15, became head of the family. After things were settled up there was very little left and Green went to work in a neighbor’s mine. There was his mother; two sisters – Martha (age 16) and Mary (age 12); and three brothers – John (age 9), Oliver (age 7), and Levi (age 4).

At age 25, Green married Susan Willis (age 18), a young Cherokee neighbor. He had supported his widowed mother for ten years and he had become like a father to his younger brothers and sisters.

It was a former Georgia woman, Mrs. Peter Wimmer, who wrote home about the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1848.

Green headed two expeditions to California. Georgia miners were considered among the best in the world at the time. Green Russell had become one of the most experienced miners in the area and had knowledge of elementary surveying. In prospecting he had sureness about gold and where to look for it, that amazed his fellow workers.

He first took John, well in advance of the tens of thousands who later poured into California territory seeking their fortunes, and their previous mining experience gave them an added edge. By the end of the year, Green and John Russell had mined so much gold they were ready to head home.

Green had promised to bring his younger brothers back as soon as possible. On his second trip he took Levi, 19, and Oliver, 22. Both returned home well established to marry. John had married Francis McClure.

Green’s next trip was to Colorado where he is credited with opening the Colorado mines. He is called the “Sutter of Colorado” and is the only man who participated in all three gold strikes in the U. S. at that time – Georgia, California and Colorado.

John Stayed in Georgia and eventually came to the Cherokee Nation to settle with Frances. Green, Oliver and Levi were very successful in Colorado, but by 1863 due to Union Sentiment in Colorado, decided they should start for home. (Their trip home to Georgia would fill a book with Union soldiers, Indians, etc. to overcome.)

After the war Green returned to Colorado but after his son’s death at age 27 in a mining accident, he decided to return to Georgia. On the way the family decided to visit John and Frances in Indian Territory over winter. John convinced Green to take up residence on the Canadian River taking advantage of Susan’s Cherokee heritage. He, Susan and the children all became ill of malaria fever and on August 24, 1877, he died. He is buried in Briartown Cemetery.