

A 2023 Silver Award Project by Broken Arrow Girl Scouts Troop 1229
Research assistance provided by: Nancy Brian & Dr. Betty Gerber, Ed. D.

ACD Co. Historically was the Gardner Cannery

- The Gardner Cannery was constructed on Elm Pl. at railroad tracks to can vegetables and meat products from area farms and was active during the 1930s and 1940s.
- After the cannery closed in 1946, the building remained empty until it was acquired by Glenn Pray in 1960. He moved the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Co. (ACD) factory, from Auburn, Illinois to Broken Arrow making it one of the first well known businesses in Broken Arrow. They deal in antique car restoration of the Auburns, Cords, and Duesenberg's which are all luxury cars.
- In 1964, ACD began producing a 7/8 size Cord, based on the design of the 1930s era sports car, a second-generation Cord. The new Cord debuted in 1966.
- Glenn Pray also had an interest in airplanes and owned several antique planes. The building/business is behind the plane that is seen on S. Elm.
- The company stopped producing cars in 1980 but continues to restore these luxury cars and is a resource for parts for these cars. They have been featured a few times on American Pickers TV show as a resource/expert for these cars.
- The ACD Co. remains a Pray family-owned and run business.

[122 S Elm Place, Broken Arrow](#)



GARDNER CANNING COMPANY INC.
High Grade Canned Foods

SHIPPED TO: BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA MARCH 5, 1952
 INVOICE NO. 455
 CUSTOMER ORDER NO.
 BROKEN ORDER NO.

SOLD TO: SHEPHERD'S BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA TERMS: 15 DAY CASH
 DO NOT EXPECT CASH DISCOUNT
 OR PREPAID FREIGHT

ROUTING		CAR	F. O. B.	PRICE PER CASE	AMOUNT
QUANTITY	SHIP TO CODE	DESCRIPTION			
2	24/300	LANDOLTA CHILI & BEANS	3.00		\$ 6.00
2	21/2	RED MEAT BUNNET	.85		1.70
2	21/2	GARDNER COASTAL TUNALES			18.50
2	18/1	RED MEAT PORK & BEANS	.75		1.50
2	24/300	SP FRIED STEW BEANS	1.10		2.20
2	24/300	SP FRY BEANS	.85		1.70
2	24/300	SP KIDNEY BEANS	.85		1.70
1/3					.33
					33.38

PLEASE PAY ON THIS INVOICE AS WE DO NOT RENDER MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

Glenn Pray

*We hereby certify that these goods were produced in compliance with all applicable requirements of sections 4, 5 and 11 of the Pure Food and Drug Act, as amended, and all regulations of the United States Department of Labor which apply to the goods herein.

Glenn Pray and his Cord. (photo credit ACD Factory)



Sieling Park



- Ida Sieling, daughter of Herman Scheer and Widow of Henry Sieling landscaped a run-down city-owned plot of land across the street from her home into a beautiful botanical park
- The Self-Culture club bought more land to add a park, then it was donated to the city of BA.
- Sieling Park was dedicated May 7, 1939

[801-899 N Elm Ave, Broken Arrow](#)



HISTORY ON THE MAIN STREET CORRIDOR

First United Methodist Church

- The Methodist Episcopal congregation is the oldest organized denomination in Broken Arrow township.
- A wooden church building was built in 1903 as a community church of several denominations.
- The first public school was held in the church building that year.
- A large 2 story brick building was erected in 1920. This became the First Methodist Church.

[121 N. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



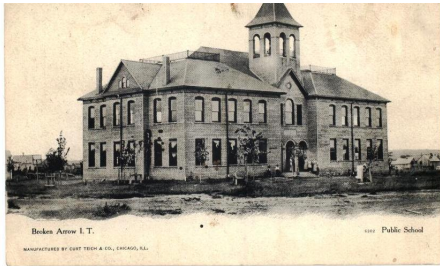
Broken Arrow Chamber & BA School Enrollment Center

Historically the first public school building



- The First School building was a two-story building that served all grades.
- It was first built in 1904.
- The original structure burned down but was rebuilt in 1925 into what is now known as “Central on Main” and houses the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce & BA School Enrollment center.

[201 N. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



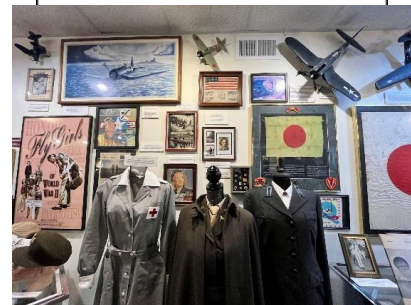
Military History Center

Historically was the Franklin Hospital



- MHC Mission: “Promoting Patriotism Through the Preservation of Military History”
- This building housed the first modern hospital in Broken Arrow.
- Franklin Hospital was named after Dr. Onis Franklin as
- He and his son, also a physician, funded the construction therefore owned the building.

Red Cross Workers Dress



Here's some interesting information about women in the military found amongst so much more in this museum:

- Women in World War II served in every branch of the military. They would join their sister or brother in service, while others stayed home and kept the war economy humming by raising their children and supporting their loved ones with letters and postcards. Although our community had not yet reached 3,000 population, 11 women enlisted to serve in the war effort in support of our fighting forces. The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M served as training sites.
- Many women were Red Cross workers during the war. They lived in hospitals and other stateside healthcare locations. They took care of the wounded soldiers by not only healing them but also by boosting their spirits. They would supply hot coffee, freshly made donuts, and they would play the soldiers songs on the guitar.

[112 N. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Army



Marine



Navy



Ownby-Rutledge House



- Dr. Warren Ownby, an osteopathic doctor, built this house in 1908-1909. His wife Phenie Lou Ownby was the first female mayor of Broken Arrow, elected in 1931.
- The Kerm Rutledge family spent years in restoring this house and the 1903 Abbott house across the street

[322 W. Detroit, Broken Arrow](#)



Abbott Rutledge Home

- The Abbott home is an old Queen Anne style house built in 1903.
- The Abbott family moved from Illinois to Indian Territory and invested in town and farm property.
- They set up a family business called Blair & Abbott Hardware Furniture and Undertaking Parlor next to the Simmons Hotel.
- Michael and Fannie lived in a lean-to behind their business until their home was completed.
- By April 16, 1903, Michael Abbott and 11 others were the first listed as having a residence in Broken Arrow, Indian Territory.
- The Abbotts were Roman Catholics and would host mass in their home for all the local Catholic families.
- The Abbott home is an example of the Queen Anne style, with many original features.
- The house has many original features such as the fancy carved oval door, three matched stained-glass windows, sliding wood panel parlor doors, a window seat, and original door hardware.
- The house was renovated in 1975 with modern amenities while keeping its original character.

[323 W. Detroit](#)



FS Hurd House



- F.S. Hurd was the president of the Traders and Planters Bank which later became Broken Arrow's First National Bank. He worked as a banker, savings & loans, and ran an insurance agency.
- He was elected twice to be president of the Chamber of Commerce, and was one of three agents authorized to act on behalf of the persons signing the petition for incorporation of the town.
- His house was built in 1903 in the style of Colonial Revival. The lumber was shipped from Kansas City, Missouri.

- The house was in the family until 1985. It is now owned by Jeff Steen for his law office.

[404 W. Broadway, Broken Arrow](#)



Indigo, Tie Dye Company and Rainbow Bowls



Historically was the Columbia building that has housed many businesses over the years.

- This building was built in 1908.
- It was operated as a Stanfill grocery store from 1944-1980.
- It was the BA Flower Basket from 1977-1980.
- Other businesses included H.H. Walter, Collins and Tom Law, Cunningham, Neals, and Stanfill. Sew Flakes Quilt Shop in 2010.
- It is now owned by Indigo, Tie Dye Company and Rainbow Bowls

[106 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)

No historic photo available at this time.

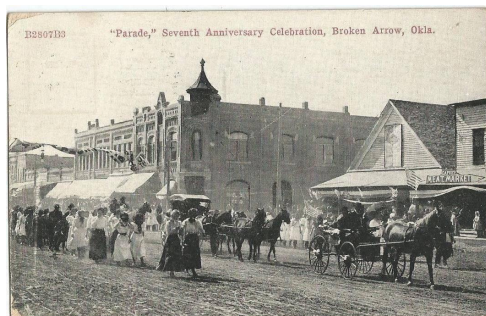


Main Street Tavern

Historically was site of First State Bank

- Prior to the construction of this building, a wooden structure was built in 1904 and was First STATE Bank. During a robbery dynamite was used to open the safe and destroyed part of the building.
- The present structure was built using brick in 1904 to replace the destroyed building. The bank was on the first floor and the second floor had a cupola, offices and an opera house.
- From 1908 to 1913, the high school graduation exercises were held on the second floor.
- From 1922-1929 it was Quiggs Drugs and from 1954-1988 it was Ross Drug.
- The building scale and architecture are impressive and provide the real focal point of Main Street.
- It is now the Main Street Tavern and the second floor is used as a party venue.

[108 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Glamour Gowns & More Boutique Historically was NuSho Theater

- The Nusho Theatre opened on November 3, 1935 with Will Rogers in “Steamboat ‘round the Bend”
- Two story building
- Hosted the World Premiere of “Broken Arrow” starring James Stewart & Jeff Chandler on July 21, 1950
- It closed on February 15, 1959 with Walt Disney’s “White Wilderness”
- It is now Glamour Gowns & More Boutique.

[124 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



City Hall

- The first City Hall, facing Dallas St. along the alley between Main and 1st St., was built in 1910. Before that the city government was conducted in upper rooms on Main St. and a jail was built on that site in 1903.
- The building accommodated public meetings, a library, fire apparatus, road grader and city offices, including a new jail.
- Today, city government buildings reside on 1st St facing east.

[200 S. First Street, Broken Arrow](#)

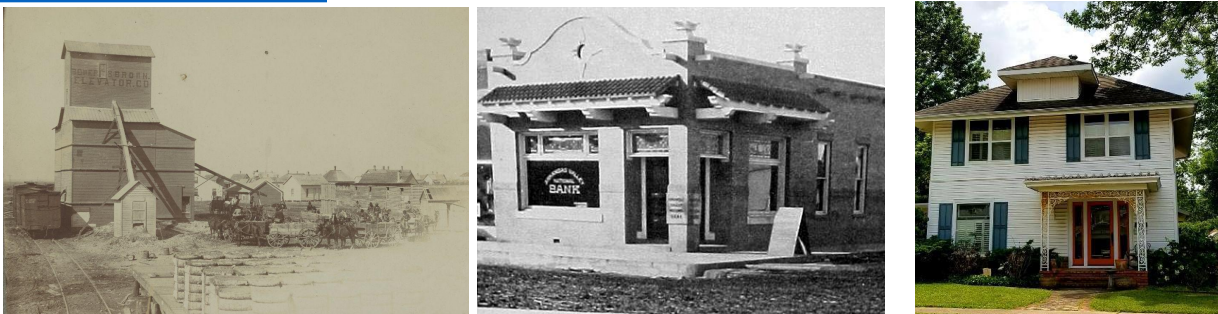


G.A. Brown House



- George Brown was a businessman and investor. He and his family moved to a small house on this lot in 1904. Brown partnered with Bower in an elevator company called Bower-Brown Elevator Company.
- He invested in Arkansas Valley National Bank when it was established and later served as vice president of the bank before acquiring the bank.
- Brown family descendants are still actively involved in AVB Bank and still own this beautiful, historic home.

[219 E. Dallas, Broken Arrow](#)



Ralph Blane Boyhood Home

- Ralph Uriah Hunsecker was born in Broken Arrow on July 26, 1914. He grew up in Broken Arrow and went to high school in Tulsa. He gained fame as a songwriter, arranger and actor for stage and screen in New York and Hollywood, and as an NBC vocalist and changed his name to Ralph Blane.
- He wrote more than 700 songs for movies and Broadway, and received numerous awards for his music under the Ralph Blane name.
- Some of the songs that he had written for Hollywood movies are; “My Dream is Yours” (Doris Day, 1949) and “The Girl Most Likely” (Jane Powell, 1957).
- The team of H. Martin and R. Blane’s most memorable score was for “Meet Me In St. Louis”(1944), starring Judy Garland. The songs that they sang for this film included; “Meet Me In St. Louis, “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” and “The Trolley Song”, which garnered an Academy Award nomination.
- Blane retired and came back to Broken Arrow, after New York City and Hollywood, in the 1990s and died on November 13, 1995. At the time of his death, the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) registered more than five hundred songs in his name.

[230 E. Dallas Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Dr. Onis Franklin House

- Dr. Onis Franklin who practiced in the area between 1904-1963.
- He and his son, Dr. SE Franklin, established Broken Arrow’s first modern hospital in the early 1940’s. It stood on the site of the current Military History Center.
- The house was built in 1919 on a ½ acre lot. It had 50 windows and a basement. The hackberry trees in the yard are over 100 years old.
- He died in 1963 and his wife Lena lived there until her death in 1984.

[229 E. Dallas Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Spoke House Bicycles Historically was Hunsecker's Grocery Store

- This building and the one next to it was originally Hunsecker's grocery and department store from 1916-1960. It was 1 of 7 grocery stores in early Broken Arrow.
- It served as Peter's Department store 1960-1970 and then as Smitty's Western Wear from 1978 to 2007.
- Hunsecker owned many stores and a ranch.
- He was the father of Ralph Blane (Hunsecker) who was a singer/composer and wrote "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and son Tracy, a prominent rancher.
- Now it is Spoke House Bikes. The shop just to the south was part of the original store and has most recently been a café.

[224 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Broken Arrow Brewing Company Historically was the Ice and Electric Power Plant

- In 1906, the Rhyme brothers were granted a franchise (franchise) to provide electricity for Broken Arrow. In 1909, they installed an ice plant at the same site.
- The Public Service Company of Oklahoma eventually assumed ownership of the electric company and ice manufacturing ceased in 1947...because most people owned refrigerator-freezers by then.
- Currently the Broken Arrow Brewing Company, a Native American owned company, is in this building.

[333 W. Dallas, Broken Arrow](#)



The Museum Broken Arrow - Historically was Kentucky Colonel Hotel



- Served as a Main Street showplace, serving a popular fried chicken dinner that attracted patrons from communities.
- Colonel G.W. Gist had the hotel built in 1903.
- It was easily seen from the railroad depot.
- It was sold in 1916 and was named "Charles Hotel." It was sold again and renamed the "Broken Arrow Hotel."
- The owner dismantled the hotel in 1955. The lumber from the original hotel was used to build houses nearby.
- The Museum Broken Arrow is currently on this site, opening in 2009.

[400 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Katy Depot

- In mid-May of 1903, construction crews arrived in Broken Arrow to build the depot, which was placed at the end of Main Street so passengers could look down the street to view the new town.
- The depot was moved in 1908 to the west side of the street so that Main Street could extend southward. grow. In 1988 it was sold and moved to Discoveryland.
- The original site of Katy Depot Main is at the railroad tracks near The Museum Broken Arrow.



END OF MAIN STREET CORRIDOR

Picnic Area across from PAC

Historically the Broken Arrow Schools Administrative Center

- Before the BAPS administrative center occupied the space, a cotton gin was in the location. In the 1960s, a bowling alley was located here. Later, the school district bought the bowling alley and converted it into an office space. It is across from the Broken Arrow PAC that is here today.

Across from [701 S Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)

No historic photo available at this time.



Performing Arts Center

- Originally in this location was the Whiteley grocery store from 1944 into the 1960s.
- Currently this site is the Performing Arts Center.
- The grand opening was in 2009 with Frank Sinatra, Jr. headlining the show.

[701 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Veterans Park Historically the allotment/home/farm of Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Billy Atkins

- Veterans Park is a tribute to remember the veterans that have served and have lost their lives through many historical wars fighting for our country.
- Veterans Park was recently expanded to include the War at Home Memorial display in 2023 and currently holds memorials for nearly every war, women in WWII, and those who died after battle. [1111 S. Main Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Kirkland Activities Complex

Historically was Haskell State School of Agriculture

- Haskell State School, a regional vocational school, was built in 1909. Funding changed and it closed in 1917.
- Broken Arrow Public Schools used it as a classroom building known as “The Fine Arts Building.”
- The building was heavily damaged by a fire and taken down in 1987.
- The building has been taken down but it was the land across from the Kirkland Theatre at the east end of College street next to the new turf soccer fields. Kirkland Theatre was named in honor of Kirkland Field, the high school football stadium. Dick Kirkland, a football player and well liked graduate, tragically drowned in 1944 and is the namesake of both.

[S 177th E Ave & E Detroit St](#)

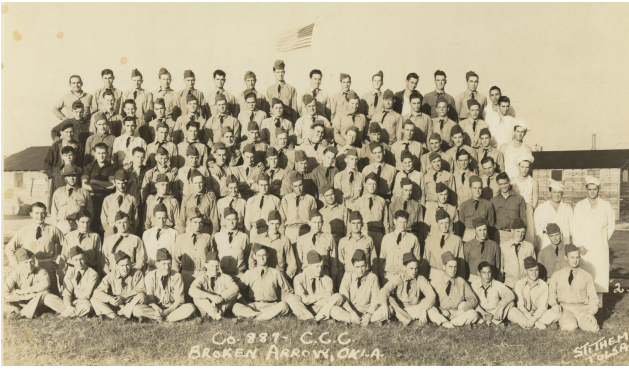


PACCAR Winch Company

Historically was Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- The Civilian Conservation Corps was designed by Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration to relieve the economic and humanitarian distress caused by the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. Many young men were out of work. Men between the ages of 18-25 were encouraged to sign up for a work program in which they would receive a monthly pay of \$30 of which \$25 was sent home to dependent families. The CCC worked on the development of National and State Parks all over the US. And the men learned valuable skills for later use.
- In 1935, 200 CCC men came to Broken Arrow to work under the Soil Erosion Program.
- As a part of the CCC there were originally 15 frame buildings constructed in Broken Arrow on the current property of PACCAR Winch Company. They also planted trees on the property where Ray Herral Nature Center is currently.
- From that time in the 1930s until the camp was closed around 1944, more than 230 men served the CCC and worked on conservation efforts and other projects for Broken Arrow that we can still see today like trails and shelters.
- The PACCAR Winch Company (formerly Braden Winch) currently is on the CCC site.

[800 E. Dallas, Broken Arrow](#)



Jack Graves Scout Reservation

- Russell Kelce, president of Seneca Coal Company, donated the first line of two parcels of coal-pit land to establish a Boy Scout camp for Troop 104 known as Camp Russell established in 1944. With the direction and supervision of Marvin Tucker (photographed below at Camp Russell), the land was reclaimed and restored from the coal pits.
- Today, the land is divided between the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts and Northeastern State University.
- Now it is known as Jack Graves Scout Reservation

[E. New Orleans Street, Broken Arrow](#)



Weer - an original settlement



- Weer began as a trading post for the Creek Indians and the few white settlers that were here, and was established by John Emmet Weer in 1885-87.
- The small trading post then grew to be a small settlement in an early Broken Arrow tribal town that predates the incorporated city that exists today. Before statehood, travelers rode horses into Weer to find sanctuary. It was not safe to travel alone, especially at night in the Indian Territory era. There were dangerous outlaws and wolves in the area.
- This early village had a post office from 1894-1906, three general stores, a school, two doctors, a drug store and nearly 100 residents.
- John Weer was postmaster and farmer. He also ran a saw mill, cotton gin, grist mill and a store.
- Weer is one of the oldest settlements in the Broken Arrow area. Statehood was 1907 and once the commercial area of today's city was established (starting in 1902), the settlement of Weer became more or less a ghost town. However, several Creek families continued to live on their farms just as they had long before Weer came into existence. By 1915 or thereabouts, Weer was more of a remnant of what had been.
- The Creek town had been here since 1828, and it was called Broken Arrow, the name it had in Alabama before the Trail of Tears.
- There is a Weer historical marker just south of the [Natural Spring](#) on the west side of the road. Further south is Jasper Estates.

[Weer's location is Southeast of downtown Broken Arrow on 185th East Avenue between 121st and 131st.](#)

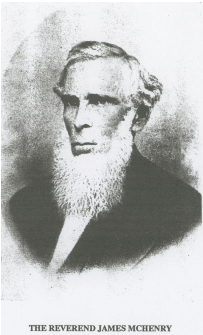


Natural Spring

McHenry Cemetery (Amelia)

- The McHenry Cemetery is where Muscogee Civil War veteran James McHenry, a Confederate Major, is buried.
- McHenry, born in 1818 in the Creek Nation in Georgia also helped outline the Creek National Constitution, fought in the Civil War, founded some churches, and many other things.
- He also helped with the outline of the Creek National Constitution and founded some churches. He was also the legislative head of the Creek Nation for at least 4 years.
- He died in 1883 at the age of 65.
- The cemetery can be found in the neighborhood of Jasper Estates turning east off of S. 185th E. Ave. (the same road with the natural spring) onto E. 127th off S 185th E Ave. and follow the road to the back of the neighborhood.
- When visiting the cemetery, be aware that it is in a neighborhood.

[Jasper Estates S 185th E Ave., Broken Arrow](#)



Ernest Childers Middle School

- This school, built in 1986, is named after [Ernest Childers](#) who is a Native American Muscogee (Creek) US Army Medal of Honor recipient for his bravery during a battle in World War II. He was the first Native American to receive the Medal of Honor.
- He was born in Broken Arrow 1918 and died in 2005 at the age of 87.
- There is a tribute to him in the school you can visit if you have a student there.

[301 E Tucson Street](#)



City Water Spring/Ray Herral Nature Park



- This natural spring provided water for the early residents of Broken Arrow. They would use this source of water and use it for drinking, bathing, and other things, such as washing clothes or even putting out fires.
- In 1909, the spring water was piped to the water tower behind City Hall.
- The city would grow Christmas trees near the spring during the depression and then sold them in town.
- As the new water sources were secured for Broken Arrow, the area of the spring was landscaped and developed for the Ray Herral Nature Park.
- The history of this spring goes back further to the Muscogee (Creek) tribe who were removed from Alabama to these lands in the early 1800's during Trail of Tears. A group of the Muscogee people in Alabama called themselves Thlikachka which means broken arrow. As the Muscogees grew in size, a group who were away gathering river cane for arrows by breaking the cane OR tree limbs, offered to start a new town. They called themselves the Broken Arrows after their Alabama settlement.
- Spring water was available to them in multiple locations in the area, including what is today Ray Herral Nature Park.
-

[7101 S. 3rd Street, Broken Arrow](#)



White Church & Cemetery



- The Church is reported to have been established in 1875 as an early Presbyterian mission in the Broken Arrow area of Indian Territory, founded by the missionary, Dr. Robert M. Loughridge. It is called White Church because it was always painted white. Painted buildings were very unusual at the time.
- The graves of members of several prominent Indian families and early white settlers of the area are located in White Cemetery, also known as Broken Arrow Cemetery.
- Locally it was called White Cemetery because it was next to White Church. The actual name of the cemetery is Lockridge Cemetery, named after Dr. Robert M. Loughridge.

[12222 S 129th E Ave, Broken Arrow](#)





Elam (one of the original communities that formed Broken Arrow)

- Elam has a historical marker noting the location of the Elam Hodge Farm, established in 1901.
- This site was named in honor of Elam Hodge, a Muscogee (Creek) Native, who was a descendant of the Perrymans who owned a lot of land, and parts of the Broken Arrow area.
- Elam consisted of a cluster of stores, a gin and a few homes and a post office. This settlement was called Elam. The post office closed in 1906.
- When the railroad did not come close to Elam, the town's merchants loaded up their businesses on skids and moved a few miles to be close to the railroad.

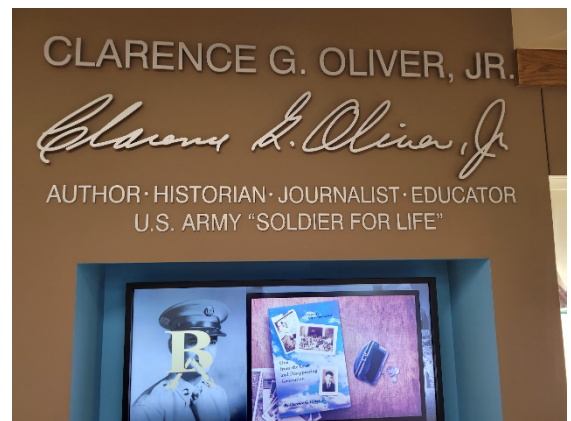
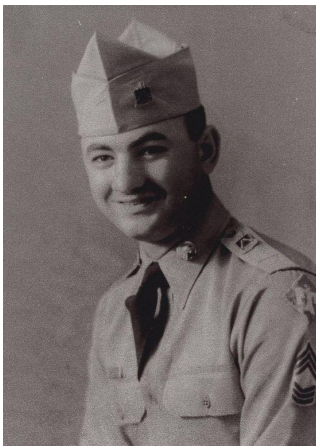
[The Historical Marker](#) is located at E. 111th & S. 145th E. Ave across from Aspen Creek Early Childhood Center



Oliver Middle School

- Oliver Middle School is named after Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr. He is an author, historian, journalist, educator, and U.S. Army "soldier for life" as it reads at the memorial at Oliver Middle School.
- He is well known for being a superintendent for the Broken Arrow district where he was an administrator for 30 years.
- He was born in Oklahoma in 1929 and currently lives in Broken Arrow. At the memorial, you can see historical items like an old school desk and many of his awards. <http://www.clarencegoliverjr.com/>

[3100 W New Orleans Street](#)



Historical Marker



Family Activity