

Brief History of Franklin M. Murray

Iowa of Oklahoma

Franklin M. Murray was born on November 2, 1896, on his maternal grandfather's allotment. His maternal grandfather was Victor Dupree. Franklin was a descendant of the Iowa Leader, No-Heart (Nahs-che-nying-eh). Victor Dupree's allotment was located 2 miles south of the town of Vinco, Oklahoma, just south of the Cimarron River, near Perkins, Oklahoma. In 1900, Franklin's father, Charles C. Murray, moved his family to his allotment southeast of Perkins near what was known as Sandy Creek.

Franklin's father was a Roadman of the Native American Church and the original fireplace acquired from Quannah Parker, Comanche leader, family friend, is located on this allotment. Franklin was a lifetime member of the Native American Church; as are his family members. When the Iowa Tribe was located on the Kansas-Nebraska Reservation, Franklin's paternal grandfather, Kirwin Murray, served with the Union Army in the 13th Kansas Infantry Volunteers during the Civil War.

Franklin Murray attended Pleasant View Country School at the age of six (circa 1902-1903), known as "Buzzard Roost", located across the country road from the Charles C. Murray allotment. He attended Sac and Fox Mission School circa 1904-1909 along with Jim Thorpe, who was later to become the Olympic Champion. He was compelled to attend this Indian boarding school by the U.S. Federal Government. He also attended Chilocco Indian School from the age of 8-13 (circa 1909-1913), where a five-year limit was required. However, Franklin attended only four years and returned home to Perkins, Oklahoma, at the age of 17. Upon his return, Franklin helped his step-father in farming and was allowed to farm his own tract of land for subsistence, and in the meantime, began to play baseball with local teams.

Franklin played baseball for local oil-company sponsored teams in the early 1900's. These teams were from Cushing, Drumright, Oilton, and Bristow, and other surrounding towns with which he participated in several state baseball leagues. He was a pitcher on the Cushing State Champions team during this time and also played with the Independence, Missouri team for two seasons in 1917-1918. During this period he became homesick and returned to Perkins.

He was married to Martha Julia McGlaslin in September of 1922. His Iowa Indian name is The-gleh-pe, which means "Good Track," and he is of the Bear Clan of the Iowa Tribe. Martha's Iowa name was Mun-gle-dah-me, which has meaning to one of the heavenly elements, and was also of the Bear Clan. Their marriage was one of the last "arranged" marriages according to ancient Iowa custom. They lived on their own farm southeast of Perkins where Franklin farmed and was also a carpenter. Franklin and Martha had 3 sons and 2 daughters; 5 grandsons and 3 granddaughters. After his retirement, the family moved into the town of Perkins on Eaton Drive, where he resided for the remainder of his life. In 1976-1977, Franklin taught a language class of the Iowa dialect to tribal members and other interested persons. He compiled a dictionary of said dialect which facilitates an easy understanding of the Iowa language. He assisted all people, student and professional, local and out-of-state, in publishing works of the Iowa people. (Muh-gle-dah-me died in February, 1977, after 55 years of marriage to The-gle-pe.)

His legacy is the original written Ioway dictionary, by the use of phonetics, for future generations to come. He wanted our tribal language to live on.