



MAJOR HELEN L. (FREUDENBERGER) HOLMES
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
RETIRED

16 DECEMBER 1915 — 22 MARCH 1997

MAJOR HELEN L. FREUDENBERGER HOLMES

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. THE FIRST WAAC AND MILITARY MEMBER IN WORLD WAR II FROM OKLAHOMA, 1942

Helen L. Freudenberger was sworn in as the first member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) from Oklahoma on 9 July 1942. In addition, she was the first U.S. Military woman from Oklahoma in World War II, as all the other services for women were formed after her swearing in. She was a graduate of the Officers First Graduation Class on 29 August 1942 at the 1st WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa. As a member of the 4th Company, 1st Regiment, she was one of 438 graduates in the class, selected from over 35,000 applicants nationwide, as over 350,000 women served in WW II.

2. RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL WAAC AND WAC PUBLICITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., 1943

From 27 January 1943 to 1 September 1943, she became the Public Relations Officer of the WAAC in the Military District of Washington. When the WAAC became part of the the Army of the United States and was renamed the Women's Army Corps (WAC), she then became the Public Relations Officer of the Military District of Washington, and served in that position from 1 September 1943 to 8 October 1943. These duties included supervising national publicity in magazines such as LIFE, LOOK, as well as in The Washington Post.

3. ARMY AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1943-46

She was assigned to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Intelligence, beginning 9 October 1943 for a period of 2 ½ years. Her work was the collection and preparation of summaries of world-wide air action, which were reviewed by Commander of the U. S. Army Air Force, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold; Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall Jr. then reviewed and personally hand delivered the daily summary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

4. FOUNDING SPONSOR OF THETA SIGMA PHI, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, 1942

Under her guidance, this chapter was founded as a national honorary journalist fraternity for women, which later became Women in Communications.

5. EDITOR, FLYING FARMER MAGAZINE, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, 1950-51

6. MAYOR OF GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA, 1979-81

Political leader for historical renovation of Guthrie, including lobbying and receiving a \$1 million federal appropriation for brick sidewalks, street lamps, and development. It was one of the largest historical renovations in the United States.

7. AUTHOR AND EDITOR OF THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY: 1889-1979. [2 VOLUMES]

This was the first compilation of its type of the city, county, and family histories in Oklahoma since 1896. Published in 1979 and 1981, this took 4 years to write.

8. GUTHRIE DAILY LEADER NEWSPAPER 89ER EDITION SECTIONS, 1980-97

Original articles with photographs covers a wide range of topics concerning the history of Oklahoma while a territory, as well as after statehood. These totaled over several hundred pages of newsprint.

9. HELEN F. HOLMES HISTORICAL COLLECTION, GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA LIBRARY, 1997

This memorial was established by Friends of the Guthrie Library. It contains books, papers, and memorabilia donated of importance to the City of Guthrie.

10. HELEN F. HOLMES COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES, 1876-1996

As part of the renowned Western History Collection, her donation of over 3,000 manuscripts, photos, negatives, biographies, and other memorabilia, were original material collected while writing The Logan County History: 1889-1979. This previously undiscovered material, made a significant contribution to the historical record of the State of Oklahoma.

11. FIRST WOMAN GRADUATE IN AGRICULTURE JOURNALISM AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, 1940

12. FIRST WOMAN TO TEACH JOURNALISM AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, 1940

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PERSONAL DATA

Major Helen Loretta (Freudenberger) Holmes was born 16 December 1915 as the youngest of 8 children to John A Freudenberger, a Spanish-American War veteran, and Theresia (Karner) Freudenberger, both of whom were German immigrants, on their farm near Pleasant Valley, Oklahoma.

She married Robert Franklin Holmes, (a World War II Army Anti-Aircraft veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for European service), on 19 December 1949 in Guthrie, Oklahoma at the Zion Lutheran Church. They purchased a farm near Coyle, Oklahoma in 1950. In 1958 he began work for the Oklahoma Farmers Union in Oklahoma City, and was Manager of the Farm Property Insurance Department when he died on 27 October 1962.

Together they had three surviving children: Lieutenant Colonel Charles M. Holmes, United States Army, retired; Major William J. Holmes, United States Air Force, retired; and Andrea M. (Holmes) Volturo, CPA. A fourth child, Angela, predeceased her. She is also survived by three grandchildren, as well as two great-grandchildren.

She died at the age of 81 years on 22 March 1997 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

EDUCATION

The education of Major Holmes began at the Lutheran Elementary School in Pleasant Valley, Oklahoma.

Next she attended Coyle High School. In her senior year, she placed 1st in the General Intelligence Test at the Oklahoma State Interscholastic Meet in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She was Valedictorian at age 16 of the graduating class of 1932.

At Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC), later Oklahoma State University (OSU), she was a star reporter for the Daily O'Collegian; acted with the Players Club in several theatrical productions; and a member of the International Relations Club. Her major was in English, with minors in Journalism and Education, resulting in conferral of the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in 1936.

Her graduate work was at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), as a University Scholar. With a major in Journalism, her interests were publicity methods, magazine writing and editing, propaganda methods, and agricultural economics. In 1940 she earned the Master of Science (MS) degree.

She was the first woman to ever receive a degree in Agriculture Journalism at the University of Wisconsin (Madison).

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PRE-WAR EXPERIENCE

EDITOR, THE MAUD DAILY ENTERPRISE, JUNE - OCTOBER 1936

After receiving her BS degree at the age of 20, she became Editor of The Maud Daily Enterprise in June 1936. At that time, it was the smallest daily newspaper in Oklahoma. She continued in that position for 3 months.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, OAMC, 1936 - 39

In October 1936, she went back to OAMC as a Public Relations and Editorial Assistant in the Department of Publications-Journalism for a period of 3 years. This job included preparation of publicity materials, and was later expanded to supervision of releases.

INSTRUCTOR OF JOURNALISM, OAMC, JUNE 1940 - JULY 1942

Back at OAMC in June 1940 from a year's leave of absence to finish her Master's degree, she then was appointed to the position of Instructor of Journalism.

She was the first woman to ever teach Journalism at OAMC (Oklahoma State University).

She taught one class in free-lance magazine article writing, with the requirement for students to sell one article for a passing grade: all of whom succeeded. Furthermore, she assisted with teaching classes in bulletin editing and publicity methods. Other duties included: origin, development, preparation, editing, and releasing of publicity materials with photographs; and editing bulletins for the Agricultural Experiment Station.

On the airwaves, she also wrote and delivered 3 weekly newscasts on a Tulsa, Oklahoma radio station, KVOO, where she also had a weekly interview program.

During this time, she organized 3 state-wide writer's conferences, to include speakers from the entire Southwestern region of the United States, with attendance including all Midwestern states. Outreach expanded to initiate a student writers conference with prizes for best original submissions.

FOUNDING SPONSOR, THETA SIGMA PHI HONORARY FRATERNITY, OAMC, 1942

She served as founding sponsor of the Fourth Estate Club at OAMC to successfully establish a chapter of Theta Sigma Phi, a national women's journalism honorary fraternity, which later became Women in Communications at OSU.

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MILITARY HISTORY

APPLICATION TO THE WAAC, JUNE 1942

While serving as the public relations representative of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at OAMC in 1942, the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was announced in May, which was the first of the uniformed services for women in World War II.

She then obtained letter of recommendation from the colonel in command of ROTC at OAMC, and the Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma, James E. Berry. After an interview in Oklahoma City, she was selected as one of the Oklahomans to travel to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, the Headquarters of the 8th Army Corps, for a physical examination and an interview on 15 June 1942.

On her train trip back to Stillwater, she stopped in Guthrie to see her parents. Her mother was dying of cancer, and in that conversation revealed that she had applied to join the WAAC, and reassured her mother of the decision, with the support of her father, a Spanish-American War veteran.

A few weeks later, she was notified of her selection for the first class of WAAC Officer Candidates to begin training on 19 July 1942. Meanwhile, her mother died. In order to attend her funeral, she made a special trip with her father to Oklahoma City to be sworn into service on 9 July 1942 by Major Fritz Hatcher, Assistant Army Recruiting Officer. This made her the first WAAC from Oklahoma, as the other state candidates were sworn in later, as well as the first of any military service.

She was assigned the serial number "A-803000". The "A" stood for Auxiliary; "80" stood for the 8th Army Corps area; and "3000" stood for Oklahoma. Later, "A" was changed to "L" after the WAAC became part of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. Then, "L" stood for "Lady". As an Officer Candidate, she received regular Army Private's pay of \$21 a month.

OFFICERS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE WAAC, 19 JULY - 29 AUGUST 1942

On 19 July 1942 she flew to to report for duty as an Officer Candidate at the 1st WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The 6 week training course of the Officer Candidate Course was rigorous.

The class of 438 had highly qualified women, many with professional experience, others raised in military families, and wives of serving servicemen.

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OFFICERS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE WAAC, 19 JUL - 29 AUG 1942, CONTINUED

Together they learned of life in the barracks, washing and ironing khaki chinos, how to tie a necktie, and how to keep orderly footlockers at the foot of their cots. On Saturday morning inspections they anxiously tested the beds to see if a quarter would indeed bounce off the blanket: it did. In addition, they also learned how to march everywhere: mess, class, exercise, and reveille. There was even a marching competition among the 4 companies of the class as they marched to a "whiz of a band", which was, of course, all women. For a while, however, she still struggled. She simply could not keep step when on the parade ground. Different persons would take her out to the parade grounds to march in the evenings, but that did not work. Finally, she was asked: "You like to dance?" After she replied in the affirmative, instructions were: "Well, just listen to the music beat." That worked, as she kept step in the graduation review parade.

In addition, there was an intense glare of publicity from every national news service, national and regional magazines, as articles, photos, and newsreels were sent across the United States to inform the public of their progress.

Upon completion of her training, as a member of the Officers First Graduating Class, she was commissioned with the rank of Third Officer in the WAAC on 29 August 1942.

Understandably, she had fond memories of this historic time. From a First Sergeant artillery man, to a Captain who pronounced "cavalry" as "calvary", she was grateful to the "Old Army" men for that training.

Later in life, she wrote: "Thank God I don't have to go through it again. But I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS

ASSISTANT RECRUITING CONSULTANT, WAAC, 16 SEPTEMBER 1943 - 27 JANUARY 1943

Her first assignment was as the Assistant Recruiting Consultant in the Office of Public Relations Officer at the 1st WAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, from 16 September 1943 – 27 January 1943. She was in charge of public relations for the minority press.

On 25 December 1942 she was promoted to the rank of 2nd Officer in the WAAC.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, WAAC, MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON,
27 JANUARY 1943 - 1 SEPTEMBER 1943

As Public Relations Officer, she served in that position for the WAAC in the Military District of Washington. While in charge of all public relations for the command, it included the local press, such as The Washington Post, as well as national publications, which included LOOK and LIFE magazines.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, WAC, MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON,
1 SEPTEMBER 1943 - 8 OCTOBER 1943

In this assignment, she had the same duties as for the WAAC, but did so now as part of the Army of the United States, as the WAAC became the WAC on 1 September 1943.

On that same day, she was sworn in as a First Lieutenant in the WAC before Major General John T. Lewis, Commander, Military District of Washington.

As Public Relations Officer for the WAC in the Military District of Washington, she was honored to have tea at the White House with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF AIR STAFF, HQ ARMY AIR
FORCE, A-2 (INTELLIGENCE), THE PENTAGON, 9 OCTOBER 1943 - 9 AUGUST 1946

Her duties as intelligence officer began in the Collection Division. Starting with work in the Cable Section, on 23 March 1944 she was transferred to the Control Section of Air Intelligence. Transfer to the Screening Unit occurred on 1 September 1944; then to the Air Information Division, Headquarters Army Air Force, ACAS-2, on 30 April 1946.

This important collection and preparation of summaries of world-wide air action was reviewed by Commander of the United States Army Air Force, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold; then Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall Jr., who personally hand delivered this daily summary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

She was promoted to Captain, WAC, on 27 January 1944.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, HQ 3RD UNITED STATES ARMY, HEIDELBERG, GERMANY,
5 OCTOBER 1946 - 14 FEBRUARY 1947

After Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, her service in The Army Occupation in Germany began. As Intelligence Officer, she gathered and distributed intelligence reports to the command.

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INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, HQ 2ND CONSTABULARY BRIGADE, MUNICH, GERMANY, 14 FEBRUARY 1947 – 1 AUGUST 1947

Her duties were primarily Intelligence Operations and Security. During that time she completed the 4 week Basic Course at the Headquarter, United States Constabulary School, in Sonthofen, Germany.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, HQ STUTTGART MILITARY POST, GERMANY, 1 AUGUST 1947 – 17 OCTOBER 1947

Once again, her duties were those of intelligence Officer to the Inspector General.

She was diagnosed with tuberculosis. This marked the end of her military duties.

The Inspector General, Colonel Leroy Wilson, Infantry, wrote in a Letter of Appreciation dated 17 October 1947:

“I wish to tell you and make it a matter of official record that I consider you among the most, if not actually the most, helpful assistant that I have ever had in my entire service. The complete unselfishness with which you viewed your duty to me and the Army, and the intelligence with which you followed my interests and the interests of the service approached perfection.”

TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT AT FITZSIMMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, COLORADO, 27 OCTOBER 1947 – 26 MAY 1948

After a diagnosis of moderately advanced tuberculosis, she was among the first groups of patients treated with penicillin, which was still in an experimental phase to determine appropriate dosages for treatment. Some patients were in quarantine. She wrote at the time of the difficulty of waking up to see vacant beds in the wards, as survival was unpredictable. Still, the days were consumed with treatments, resting, and writing letters as strength permitted.

Finally, the Army Retiring Board for Officers met on 5 May 1948, and decided she was permanently incapacitated for active service, recommending retirement.

RETIREMENT, FITZSIMMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, COLORADO, 26 MAY 1948

Major Helen L. Freudenberger, promoted from Captain to that rank on 26 May 1948 in the WAC, Army of the United States, was retired.

Here decorations were: Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal (German Clasp).

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VA EXPERIENCE

O'REILLY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI,
26 MAY 1948 - 12 APRIL 1949

Following retirement, she continued her recuperation from tuberculosis and received further treatment to regain her health.

Eventually, after 1 ½ years as an inpatient, she was released, allowing her to return home to Oklahoma.

BACK TO FARMING LIFE IN OKLAHOMA, 1950-72

EDITOR, FLYING FARMER MAGAZINE, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, 1950 - 51

On 3 August 1944, the Oklahoma Flying Farmers Association was founded. The vision of Dr. Henry G. Bennett, President of OAMC, became a reality when the National Flying Farmers Association was formed 12 December 1945 in Stillwater. With her unique background at OAMC, in agriculture, and in the Army Air Force, she became Editor of the Flying Farmer Magazine, serving for 1 year.

LIFE ON THE FARM, COYLE, OKLAHOMA, 1950 - 72

After her marriage to Robert F. Holmes in 1949, on 31 October 1950 they moved to a farm in the Coyle school district. It was on the south bank of the Cimarron River, in an area known as Cowboy Flat as early as 1868, which later became Pleasant Valley in 1904 as part of Oklahoma Territory. On their 220 acres, they cultivated wheat and had 15 acres of pecan trees. They raised registered Hereford cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry for egg production. For a time they kept bees for honey. Meanwhile, she devoted herself to the life of a homemaker—cooking, canning, gardening, sewing, quilting, and crocheting. Their primary focus became raising three children. After the death of her husband in 1962, she made the difficult decision to stay on the farm, even though she never learned to drive, believing hard work and life outdoors would be of lasting benefit to her 3 children, whom she supported in the Parent Teachers Association (PTA), 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America (FFA), and sports.

In the Spanish American War Veterans Auxiliary, she often hosted her father's friend, Billy McGinty: a cowboy who knew outlaws in Indian Territory; a Rough Rider with Theodore Roosevelt and hero at San Juan Hill; part of Buffalo Bill's Congress of Rough Riders; leader of what became the first nationally famous cowboy band; first bronc buster in a movie in 1889; and elected life president of the Rough Riders Association. She was committed to the importance of listening to military veterans, and very early on became dedicated to commemorating their place in written and oral history.

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LIFE IN GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA, 1972 - 97

MAYOR OF GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA, 1979 – 81

In 1972 she decided to move closer to her church and become further involved in civic activities on a wider scale.

She first became a member of the City Council, then was elected as the 2nd woman Mayor in the history of Guthrie from 1979 – 81.

The most significant accomplishment was as the political leader for the architectural renovation of Guthrie. As part of a very committed group of community activists, there was a successful lobbying effort of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to procure funding for brick sidewalks, street lamps, and facade restoration. Federal appropriation and funding was \$1 million. This became the largest continuous Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) in America at the time, exceeding even that of New York City. Guthrie became a model throughout America to other communities for historical renovation.

This set the stage for the arts to flourish. Later concerts were held featuring the legendary composer, Henry Mancini, and the great pianist, Claudio Arrau.

In addition, under her leadership, Guthrie won a key lawsuit against Oklahoma City to protect its municipal water rights, and also expanded the city limits to capture business expansion for inclusion in the city tax base. Mobile meals were also initiated in Guthrie. Finally, buses for the Aging Council were purchased when she personally pledged her own funds as security to meet a tight deadline of only a few days, then subsequently raised \$35,000 in the community for a matching grant.

THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY: 1889 -1979 (2 VOLUMES)

Previously, she wrote poetry in high school, then newspaper and magazine articles. She even tried her hand at creative writing of short stories in the 1930s and 40s. Her Master's thesis was published as "A Preliminary Inquiry into *What Makes People Change Their Minds*, Bulletin 11, Department of Agricultural Journalism, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, 1941. Later she wrote: *Jack and Jill: A Play for Children*, reprinted in "100 Best Plays for Children" by A.S. Burack Company Boston. This was performed as recently as after the turn of the 21st Century.

This time, however, her interest turned to history. As the Principal Author and Editor of The Logan County History: 1889 – 1979, she devoted 4 years to its research and writing, which totaled 1248 pages in bound 9" x 12" volumes.

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THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY: 1889 -1979 (2 VOLUMES), CONTINUED

The call for family photos and historical accounts went to all county publications, as well as throughout the state to solicit information from those who were living, previously lived, or had ancestors who lived in Logan County from days after The Land Run in 1889 continuing after statehood in 1907 to the present day.

There were two volumes: family history and county history. The latter referenced information, photos, documents, pamphlets, and memorabilia of the cities, county, and early material when Guthrie was the first territorial and state capital of Oklahoma. Much of this had never been published. This she supplemented from her own personal collection and library.

THE GUTHRIE DAILY LEADER NEWSPAPER 89ER EDITIONS, 1980-97

The desire for further documentation of history continued. As her personal collection of books and photographs grew, she began to write for The Guthrie Daily Leader newspaper as sole author of the 89er Edition, published to commemorate the Land Run of 1889 celebration, sponsored by the local chapter of the American Legion.

Research and writing continued throughout the year as the section followed the theme for that year's celebration. Incidentally, she hosted a live television broadcast of one parade on KAUT in Oklahoma City and interviewed legendary cowboy, singer, and actor, Gene Autry, when he was selected as Parade Marshal. The sections were voluminous, with all original articles, photos, and illustrations usually a minimum of about 30 full pages of newsprint each year.

Her extraordinary dedication and work ethic continued until the end of her life, as she was working into the evening hours on this project the night before she had a stroke. Although she died two weeks later, the final copy was delivered, and published on time in April 1997.

HELEN F. HOLMES HISTORICAL COLLECTION, GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA LIBRARY, 1992

In addition, she also found time to write another book, Homes of Historic Guthrie, which was published in 1997.

As an avid supporter and founder of Friends of the Library in Guthrie, her personal library became the collection established in her honor of historical importance to the City of Guthrie. Many were the only known copy, later supplemented by other papers and memorabilia. In addition, she was also a delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries from Oklahoma.

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HELEN F. HOLMES COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF OKLA LIBRARY, 1876 - 1996

Her ongoing commitment to the history of Oklahoma was matched by the belief that it should be accessible to the general public.

Consequently, in accordance with her wishes, the Helen F. Holmes Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries, 1876 -1996, was donated to the renowned Western History Collection.

In addition to material collected writing The Logan County History: 1889 -1979, the accession totaled 513 files and over 3000 manuscripts, photos, negatives, and biographies, including other memorabilia other than the City of Guthrie collection previously noted, of county, state, and national importance. This was a significant contribution to the historical record of Oklahoma.

Special credit should be given to her daughter, Andrea M. Volturo, who spent countless hours organizing both the collections for donation to the Guthrie Library and University of Oklahoma.

OTHER HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

She was particularly proud of the 4-H Pearl Clover Award, the FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer Award, the Golden Thimble sewing award given by The Daily Oklahoman, and being made an Ambassador of Goodwill for the State of Oklahoma.

Of most importance, however, was being included in Indomitable Oklahoma Women, a book by Opal Hartsell Brown, published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association in 1994.

It was written to recognize the contributions of 50 Oklahoma women to the state and the world. It included those born from 1843 to those then living: Mexican captives, Native American Chiefs, nurses, missionaries, writers, artists, entertainers, and military personnel.

Her profile in the military section was entitled: "Lady on the Wing".

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ORGANIZATIONS, 1932 – 1997 (GUTHRIE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

PRESIDENT OR CHAIR

Stillwater Writers Club
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Victory Community Organization
Coyle PTA
Cimarron Valley Extension Homemakers
Logan County League of Democratic Women
Logan County Council on Aging
Friends of the Public Library
Oklahoma Territorial Museum Docents
Oklahoma 75th Statehood Celebration
Land Run Centennial Committee

MEMBER

Zion Lutheran Church
Chi Delta Phi - OAMC
YWCA – OAMC
Oklahoma Writers Club
Womens National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
American Association of Agricultural Editors
American Association of University Women
Spanish-American War Veterans Auxiliary
Oklahoma State Society, Washington, D.C.
Air Force Association, Charter Member
Reserve Officers Association
The Retired Officers Association
American Legion
Church Women United
Areawide Aging Agency Council
Oklahoma Historical Society
Logan County Historical Society, Charter Member
Logan County Rural Development Council

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Training Center



This is to Certify that

HELEN L. FREUDENBERGER

has successfully completed the
Officer Candidates Course
given during the period

JULY 20, 1942 to AUGUST 29, 1942

and has been recommended for a Commission
as Third Officer in the
Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

For the Commandant

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Schaffer', written over a circular stamp.

R. SCHAFER
Captain, AGD
Secretary

Dated AUGUST 29, 1942

at Fort Des Moines, Iowa

THE
Secretary of War
OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, fidelity, and abilities of Helen L. Freudenberger L-803,000
I do appoint her Third Officer *in the*

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

to rank as such from the 29th *day of* August *nineteen hundred and* forty-two *. She is, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of the office to which she is appointed by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And all officers, leaders, and auxiliaries under her command are strictly charged and required to be obedient to her orders as an officer of her grade and position. She is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as she shall receive from the superior officers set over her, according to the rules and discipline of Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. This appointment to continue in force for the period of one year, unless sooner terminated by the Secretary of War: Provided, That in time of war, or of national emergency declared by the Congress or the President, the Secretary of War may, by order, extend the term of service to include the period of the war or national emergency plus not to exceed six months, under the provisions of an Act of Congress approved* May 14 *, 1942.*

Done at the City of Washington, this 29th *day of* August *in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and* forty-two *, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and* 67th *.*

By Order of the Secretary of War:

George G. Wolf
Adjutant General



Army of the United States

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that

HELEN L FREUDENBERGER L-803000
Hq Stuttgart Military Post
APO # 154 o/o PM New York N Y

*honorably served in active Federal Service
in the Army of the United States from*

1 September 1943 *to* 26 May 1948

Given at FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL Denver Colorado

on the 26 *day of* May 19 48

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H M REXRODE".

H M REXRODE
Major MSC

**MILITARY RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL FREUDENBERGER HELEN L			2. ARMY SERIAL NUMBER L-803000		3. AUS. GRADE Major	4. ARM OR SERVICE WAC	5. COMPONENT AUS	
6. ORGANIZATION Hq Stuttgart Military Post APO # 154 c/o PM New York N Y			7. DATE OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY 26 May 48		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Fitzsimons General Hospital Denver Colorado			
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 118 North Pine St Guthrie Oklahoma				10. DATE OF BIRTH 16 Dec 1915		11. PLACE OF BIRTH Coyle Okla		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See 9				13. COLOR EYES Hazel	14. COLOR HAIR Blonde	15. HEIGHT 5' 7"	16. WEIGHT 145 LBS.	17. NO. OF DEPENDENTS 0
18. RACE WHITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) <input type="checkbox"/>		19. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) <input type="checkbox"/>		20. U.S. CITIZEN YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Public Relations 57.x93		


MILITARY HISTORY

SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22. REGISTERED YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23. LOCAL S. S. BOARD NUMBER	24. COUNTY AND STATE		25. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY 310 Duncan St Stillwater Okla			
26. DATE OF ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY 1 Sep 1943			27. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Military Intelligence Officer 93000						
28. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS None									
29. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Army of Occupation Medal (Germany) WAAC Medal American Campaign Medal American Theatre Medal World War II Victory									
30. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None									
31. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED WAC OCS 1942					32. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN				
					DATE OF DEPARTURE		DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL	
					19 Sep 46		ETO	30 Sep 46	
					23 Oct 47		US	24 Oct 47	
33. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Physical Disability Par 14 e War Department Circular 303 1946									
34. CURRENT TOUR OF ACTIVE DUTY						35. EDUCATION (years)			
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			FOREIGN SERVICE			GRAMMAR SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	8		4	5
3	7	21	1	1	5				

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

36. KIND OF INSURANCE Nat. Serv. <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Govt. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			37. HOW PAID Allotment <input type="checkbox"/> Direct to V.A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		38. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance Waived	39. Date of Next Premium Due (one month after 38)	40. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$	41. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue only <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue <input type="checkbox"/>		
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42.  RIGHT THUMB PRINT	43. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) Lapel button issued							
44. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER BEING SEPARATED <i>Helen L Freudenberg</i>				45. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) <i>W H Lindsey</i> W H LINDSEY Captain MSC				

Army of the United States



SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL				MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS		
				10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY
FREUDENBERGER, HELEN L.				1	1st Lt	Public Relations Officer (5401)
2. ARMY SERIAL No. 3. GRADE 4. SOCIAL SECURITY No.				6	Capt	Administrative Officer (2120)
L 803 000 Major None				43	Capt	Military Intelligence Officer (9300)
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)						
118 North Pine Street Guthrie, Oklahoma						
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE		7. DATE OF SEPARATION		8. DATE OF BIRTH		
1 Sept 1943		26 May 1948		16 Sept 1915		
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION						
Fitzsimons General Hospital Denver 8, Colorado						

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER - Served with Headquarters Army Air Force, A2, Washington, D.C. Evaluated and reduced into written form, daily intelligence reports from the U.S. Air Forces of the world.

MILITARY EDUCATION

14. NAME OR TYPE OF SCHOOL—COURSE OR CURRICULUM—DURATION—DESCRIPTION

None



CIVILIAN EDUCATION

15. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED 5 years Col.	16. DEGREES OR DIPLOMAS BS & MS Degree	17. YEAR LEFT SCHOOL 1940	OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLING	
18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED Oklahoma A & M Stillwater, Oklahoma			20. COURSE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL—DATE None	21. DURATION
19. MAJOR COURSES OF STUDY English				

CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS

0-06.04

22. TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER—INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKER - Employed by Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater, Oklahoma for a period of 6 years. Did public relations work for college.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

23. REMARKS

Prior service from 9 July 1942 to 1 Sept 1943. (WAAC)

24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

25. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER

26. NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped)

W H LINDSEY, CAPT, MSC



MAJOR HELEN L. FREUDENBERGER WAC

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE

**HEADQUARTERS
STUTTGART MILITARY POST
APO 154 US-ARMY**

AG 201.22

17 October 1947

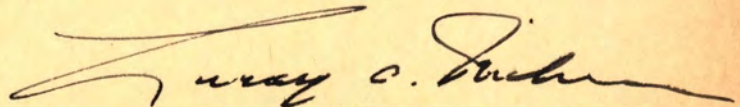
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation.

TO : Captain Helen L. Freudenberger, L 803000,
Detachment of Patients, 387th Station Hospital,
APO # 154, U.S. Army.

1. I have just filled out your Efficiency Report for the period during which you served as my assistant. The report is inadequate in that it does not provide a means for expressing the helpfulness that, in my opinion, is the greatest single characteristic of your service with me.

2. I wish to tell you and to make it a matter of official record that I consider you among the most, if not actually the most, helpful assistant that I have had in my entire service. The complete unselfishness with which you viewed your duty to me and to the Army, and the intelligence with which you followed my interests and the interests of the service approached perfection.

3. I hope that your illness will soon pass and you will be able to resume your eminently useful career as an officer of the Army.



LEROY C. WILSON
Colonel Inf
Post Inspector

cc: 201 File



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

April 24 1979

Mrs. Helen Freudenberger Holmes
520 East Mansur
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Dear Mrs. Holmes:

On behalf of President and Mrs. Carter, I wish to express my appreciation for the outstanding volunteer service you have performed, through the Logan County Extension Homemakers group, in carrying out the 2-year Logan County History project.

It is through such dedicated efforts as yours that Americans can preserve the valuable records of our ancestral and pioneer heritage, while there is yet time to draw upon the living memories of those who helped build our history.

I congratulate you especially on the occasion of your being honored by your fellow citizens and colleagues for your special accomplishment as an Extension volunteer.

Sincerely,


Bob Bergland
Secretary

EDMUND S. MUSKIE, MAINE, CHAIRMAN

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, S.C.
ALAN GRANSTON, CALIF.
LAWTON CHILES, FLA.
JAMES ABOUREZK, S. DAK.
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LA.
WENDELL R. ANDERSON, MINN.
JAMES R. SASSER, TENN.

HENRY BELLMON, OKLA.
ROBERT DOLE, KANS.
JAMES A. MCCLURE, IDAHO
PETE V. DOMENICI, N. MEX.
SAM I. HAYAKAWA, CALIF.
H. JOHN HEINZ III, PA.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JOHN T. MC EVOY, STAFF DIRECTOR
ROBERT S. BOYD, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 4, 1979

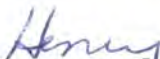
Mrs. Helen Freudenberger Holmes
520 East Mansur
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Dear Helen:

Having learned of the reception planned on May 6th, I would like to join others in recognizing your two years as the county chairman and editor of the "Logan County History: 1889-1979."

This has been a great deal of hard work on your part, and your dedication and service will be appreciated by Oklahoma and Logan County residents for years to come. Best wishes to you and continued success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,


Henry Bellmon
U. S. Senator

HB:gr

DAVID BOREN
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
440 RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

STATE OFFICES:
621 NORTH ROBINSON, SUITE 350
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73102
ROBERT S. KERR BUILDING
440 SOUTH HOUSTON
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74127

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELATED
PROBLEMS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

April 11, 1979

Helen Freundenberger Holmes
520 East Mansur
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

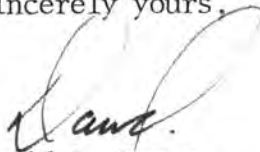
Dear Helen:

I want to congratulate you on this memorable occasion. What you have accomplished is more than a public service. By your efforts you have preserved the history of your City, Guthrie, for its citizens and for the entire State of Oklahoma.

Your compilation will keep the history of Guthrie alive for both new and future citizens to read and enjoy. No area of our state has been more important to the growth and success of Oklahoma than the City of Guthrie.

I am enthusiastic about this entire project. And with this same enthusiasm, I want to express my admiration for your personal dedication to this project.

Sincerely yours,



David L. Boren
United States Senator



GEORGE NIGH
Governor

405 / 521-2345

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
212 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73105

May 6, 1979

Dear Helen:

Apart from the ceremony honoring you today, I wish to add my personal congratulations on the completion of Volume I of Logan County History: 1889-1979.

Your dedication and devotion to this task on a volunteer basis is not only commendable but will provide an invaluable source of Oklahoma History for present and future generations.

In realizing the fruition of this work, you are a source of inspiration to all of us by your actions and your reverence to the highest standards of service to Oklahoma and in particular, to Logan County.

On behalf of all Oklahomans, we thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Nigh".

George Nigh

GN:mkf

Mrs. Helen Freudenberger Holmes
520 East Mansur
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Wes Watkins
Oklahoma*

April 17, 1979

Ms. Helen Freudenberger Holmes
520 East Mansur
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Dear Ms. *Helen* Holmes:

You have my warmest congratulations on the celebration in your honor for the distribution of the Logan County History: 1889-1979.

The many long hours that you have devoted over the past two years toward the completion of this project took a great amount of dedication, determination, and energy. You must feel a very gratifying sense of accomplishment for turning such a tremendous task into a reality.

You and the Logan County Extension Homemakers have done a great justice to Logan County and Oklahoma. Again, I offer my warmest congratulations.

Sincerely,

Wes

WES WATKINS
Member of Congress

rcm

Freudenberger First City Girl Volunteering in Army

Miss Helen Freudenberger, 26, instructor in journalism at A. and M. college, became Stillwater's first volunteer for the Women's Army Auxiliary corps, and is leaving Sunday for Fort Des Moines, Iowa, where she will be enrolled as an officer candidate in the WAAC's officer training school.

Army service is being offered women, those who qualify to be given stations that will release men for duty at the front. Five from Oklahoma have been ordered to Iowa for training.

A Coyle high school graduate, Miss Freudenberger came to A. and M. college as a student in 1932 and received her degree in English and journalism in 1936. She edited the Maud Enterprise for a short time and then was brought back to the college as editorial assistant in the department of publications.

Wisconsin Student

She took leave in 1939-40 and obtained her master's degree in agricultural journalism from Wisconsin university, returning to A. and M. as instructor in journalism. She will have military leave from her post here, while in the nation's service. No announcement has been made of plans for her replacement on the faculty for the duration.

Active in numerous local groups, Miss Freudenberger is corresponding secretary for Oklahoma Writers; treasurer of the Stillwater Writers' club—and past president of it; corresponding secretary of the local Business and Professional Women's club; chairman of the entertainment committee for B. and P. W.'s navy club rooms; secretary of Phi Kappa Phi here; sponsor of Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalism society, and a member of several other organizations.

Other Activities

Her other affiliations include the United Spanish War Veterans auxiliary, of which her father, John A. Freudenberger, now of Guthrie, is commander; the Oklahoma Academy of Science, American Agricultural Editors association, Chi Delta Phi, and the American Association of University Women. Miss Freudenberger was a founder of Fourth Estate at A. and M., now Theta Sigma Phi.

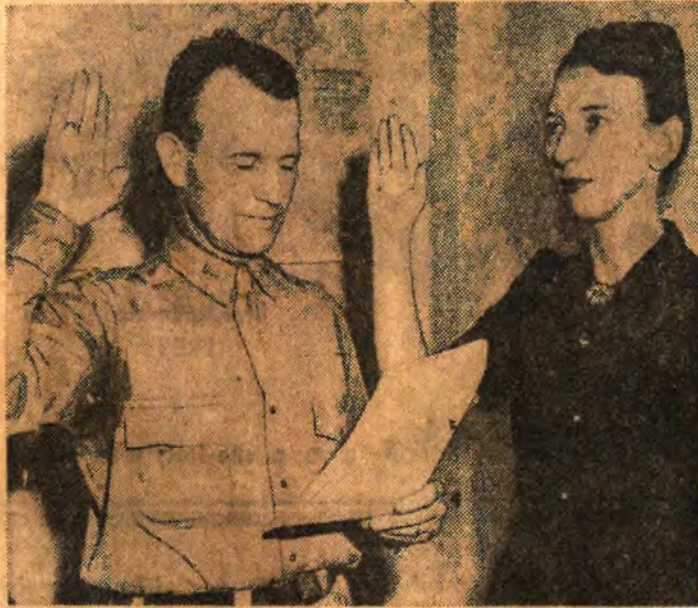
Saturday the army is negotiating for three Des Moines hotels and three buildings at Drake University here in a move to expand greatly the training program of the Women's Army Auxiliary corps.

The commander of the WAAC training school at Fort Des Moines said the army had decided to accelerate the training program and would boost facilities so 7,000 women may be trained at one time instead of the 4,000 maximum capacity originally planned.

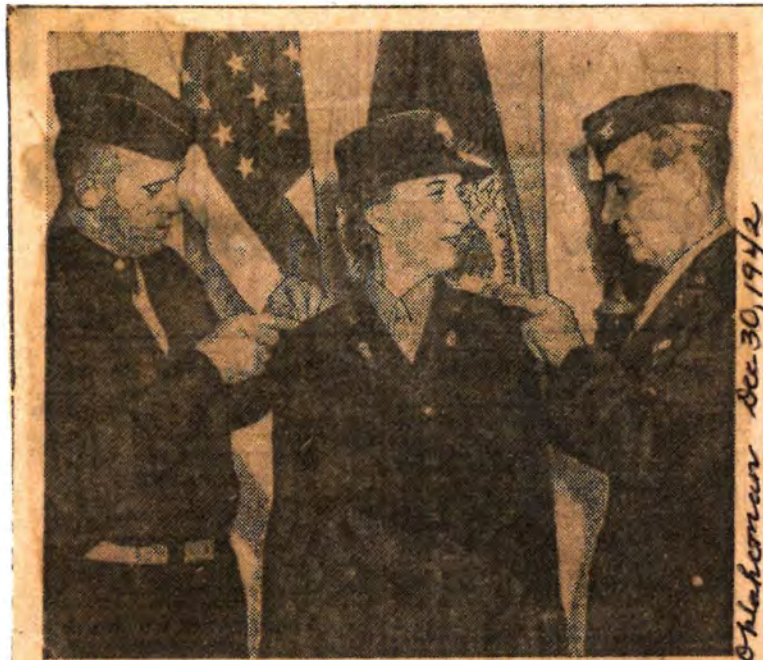
The first WAAC officers and a basic group of auxiliaries—770 women in all—will report for duty July 20.

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1942.



She's in the Army The women's army auxiliary corps becomes a reality in Oklahoma as the first Oklahoma private is sworn in by Major Fritz Hatcher, assistant army recruiting officer. Miss Helen L. Freudenberger, 26-year-old Stillwater journalism instructor, is the first of five state candidates to be given the woman's oath. Daughter of a Spanish-American war veteran, Miss Freudenberger has been head of public relations for the reserve officer training corps at Oklahoma A. and M. college. The new army auxiliary goes to Des Moines this week to begin the army's first officers' training school for women.



WAAC Promoted Oklahoma's first WAAC officer, Helen Freudenberger, Stillwater, was promoted while home visiting relatives and friends and her new rank identification was placed in position by old friends at the Oklahoma A. and M. college military department. The "new" silver bars were a gift from Major W. T. Van De Graaf who wore them around 1920. Thus, the "new" recognition bars were of a different variety than the smooth ones issued now. To the right of Miss Freudenberger is Col. Charles F. Johnson, head of the R. O. T. C. at A. and M. Second Officer Freudenberger, whose father lives at Guthrie, was a member of the journalism faculty at A. and M. before entering the service. She was the first woman in Oklahoma to be sworn in the WAAC officers candidates class when the branch was opened early in the summer.



CATHYRIE DAILY LEADER
7 MAY 1979

History Books Circulated

Norma Shipman (right) presents a copy of the Logan County History, Volume I, to its editor, Helen Holmes, during a reception at the Carnegie Library Sunday afternoon. Holmes was honored with a "This is your

Life" before the 300-plus persons who attended the reception were given their books.

(Leader Staff Photo)

Friends to establish 6 JUN 1997 Helen Holmes Memorial

The Guthrie News Leader Staff

The Friends of the Guthrie Public Library Inc. have chosen to establish the Helen Holmes Historical Collection to honor the memory of its founding members.

Helen Freudenberger Holmes, a long-time Guthrie resident, passed away recently leaving numerous civic and community organizations mourning her loss. One of those organizations is the Friends of the Guthrie Public Library.

In 1986, in response to drastic budget cuts to the Guthrie Public Library, Holmes and other like-minded citizens formed the Friends; establishing for the library both a support organization and a strong community voice for the library.

Holmes' love for the written word and her background in local politics served the library well. She exhorted people to

support the library, and urging them to let their local officials know of their wishes.

The efforts of Holmes and the other members of the Friends of the Library have succeeded in providing for the Guthrie Public Library more than \$35,000 in equipment, books and programs that its budget could not fund. Holmes served two years as president and for the past several years as treasurer.

Holmes was an author and shared her knowledge by researching and writing for the annual '89er edition of the local paper. She also was principal author of the two volumes of the book "Logan County History."

The Friends have received



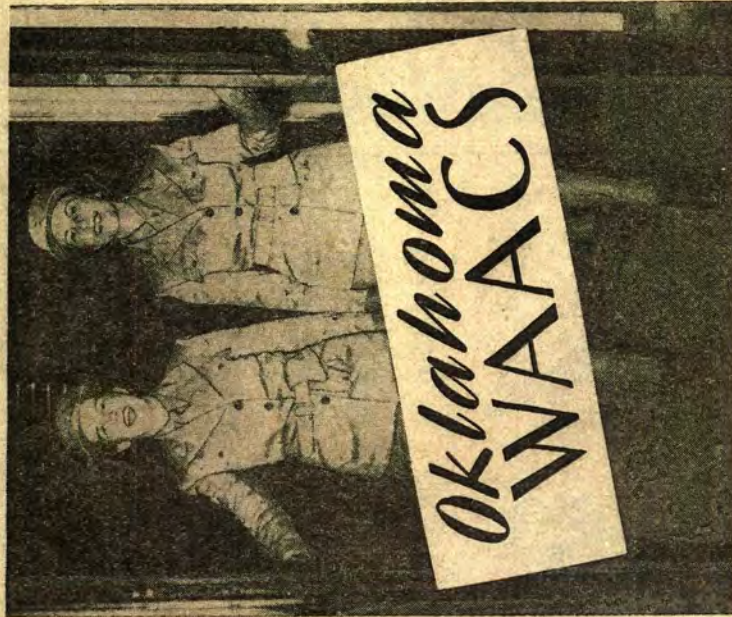
Holmes

numerous donations as memorials for Holmes, and with the blessing of her family, will use the monies to establish the Helen Holmes Historical Collection to be housed in the Guthrie Public Library.

It is hoped that the collection will contain books, papers and other memorabilia of Guthrie and Logan County, and will perhaps expand to include other areas of interest in Oklahoma.

If you would like to contribute to this project to honor Holmes, please send contributions to the Friends of the Guthrie Public Library, PO Box 1485, Guthrie, Okla 73044.

The Friends also are seeking to house the collection in Barrister, or legal, cabinets or shelving and would gladly accept these donations. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, call the library at 282-0050.



Mena Ruth Orr of Oklahoma City; Hannah J. Ashby of Norman.

FORT DES MOINES, Iowa, Aug. 29.—Oklahoma's first contingent of WAAC officer candidates who arrived here on July 29, are up to their ears in work preparing for graduation in September—and they are all working hard for that great day.

When you study the schedule on this page carefully, you realize that the WAAC training center here is no glamor girls' institution. And how do the Oklahoma women like it? Since the army does not permit any direct quotes of officer candidates, their answers may be summarized this way: They are delighted with it, wouldn't change it for anything, and coming here was the grandest thing that happened to them.

Miss Mena Ruth Orr of Oklahoma City, says that there is something about working shoulder to shoulder with other women that is novel and interesting.

In Oklahoma City, Miss Orr was head of the science department at Stonewall Jackson junior high school, although her family lives at Hollis, Okla. She graduated from Oklahoma A. and M. in 1933.

Of all the courses she takes, she likes company administration best. That course

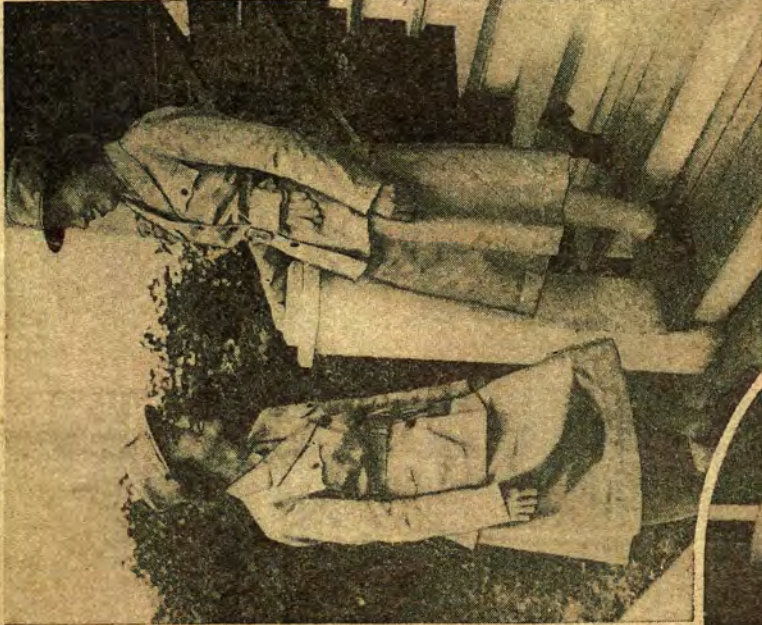
teaches the women how to handle and command companies of privates, how to meet army regulations and procedure and how to follow army instructions.

Miss Hannah J. Ashby of Norman, says her favorite course is company administration also. She taught school in the Norman public schools, living with her mother, Mrs. S. G. Ashby at 643 Chataqua-

Day of the WAACS

The typical day of a WAAC officer candidate goes this way:

Reveille	5:45 a. m.
First call	6:00 a. m.
Reveille and march	6:05 a. m.
Assembly	6:35 a. m.
Mess call	7:00 a. m.
Sick call	7:20 a. m.
School, Drill and Fatigue call	7:30 a. m.
First call	7:35 a. m.
Assembly	7:50 a. m.
Period:	
1. Close order drill	7:50-7:55
2. Physical training	8:05-8:50
3. Aircraft identification	9:00-9:45
4. Use of civilian and military maps	10:05-10:50
5. Practice in use of gas masks	11:00-11:45
Recall	11:45
Mess call	12:00
School and Drill call	1:00 p. m.
Assembly	1:10 p. m.
Period:	
1. Methods of leadership	1:10-1:55
2. Leadership of the army and the WAAC	2:05-2:50
3. Organization of the army and the WAAC	3:00-3:45
4. Close order drill	3:55-4:15
Recall	4:15
Retreat:	
First call	4:50
Assembly	4:55
Retreat	On Signal
Mess call	Immediately following retreat
Study Period	7:00-9:00
Tattoo	9:00
Call to Quarters	10:45
Taps	11:00



Mrs. Sabra Hughes Brown of Ponca City, left, and Miss Margaret Neil Horn of Edmond, in front of their barracks at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

qua, in Norman. Miss Ashby graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1937.

Miss Ashby's biggest thrill here is meeting women from every section of the country. She says she hears accents she never knew—from the southeast, from New England, from the northeast and from almost every other locality. She likes army life and thinks drilling is lots of fun.

She has had a little time to see the country here, and says that while it isn't as beautiful as the Oklahoma plains coun-

try here, and says that while it isn't as beautiful as the Oklahoma plains coun-

Mrs. Katherine Stull of Muskogee, left, and Miss Helen L. Freudenberger of Stillwater.



try, there is much to be said for trees and tall corn.

Mrs. Sabra Hughes Brown of Ponca City, Okla., says she too likes the trees and tall corn of Iowa, and even adds the bluegrass, but she misses the "blackjack" trees of Oklahoma. She likes army life very much too, and has won a letter from Sgt. Clark H. Brown, Jr. of the 104th Division Cavalry, who says that even though things can be fun.

Before Mrs. Brown came here, she was office supervisor for the Continental Oil Co. at Ponca City, and women's director of the Continental Employees association. Her mother, Mrs. Gertrude Hughes, lives at the American Legion Home school in Ponca City. Mrs. Brown graduated from Iowa State college in 1937.

Mrs. Brown has applied for foreign service.

MISS HELEN L. FREUDENBERGER of Stillwater thinks the drilling is fun, but she claims she couldn't keep step at first. Now she says she doesn't have any difficulties any more; suddenly one day on the parade grounds everything seemed to click and she's been in step ever since. Back home, Miss Freudenberger taught Journalism and did publicity work for the Oklahoma A. and M. college.

Her father, John A. Freudenberger, is retired, and lives at Guthrie. Miss Freudenberger was graduated from Oklahoma A. and M. college in 1936, and received her M. A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1940.

She doesn't have much time to think of anything but her studies she says, but she does miss the Oklahoma skies and sunsets, and the feeling of the open spaces.

Another Oklahoma woman who likes the course on leadership best is Miss Katherine Stull of Muskogee, Okla. But her greatest thrill is marching in parades on the post grounds in step to the army band.

Back home, Miss Stull was a reporter for the Muskogee Daily Phoenix and Times-Journal and two brothers, live in Norman. Miss Stull graduated from the University of Kansas in 1924.

When Miss Stull first came here, she says she found the 5:45 morning call a bit hard—but not any longer. Now she gets up even before the bugler toots his horn.

MISS MARGARET NEIL HORN of Edmond, Okla., says she had trouble with the early morning call, too. Early rising, she claims, has never been a hobby with her, but getting up in company with many other women, has made it easy. The morning hubbub in the barracks takes care of that.

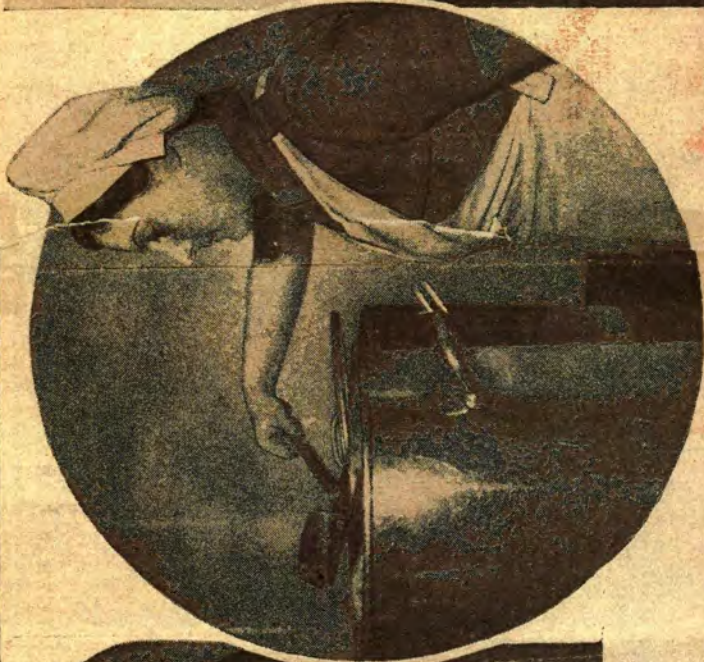
In Edmond, Miss Horn taught at Central State college and worked in a retail store. Her family, Mr. and Mrs. Y. M. Horn, live in Norman. Miss Horn got her B. A. from Phillips university in Enid, Okla. in 1936, and her M. A. from George Peabody college for teachers in Nashville, Tenn. in 1939.

What Miss Horn likes best about army life is the discipline and precision of it all.



These Oklahoma auxiliaries are members of one company of basic military trainees in the Womens Army Auxiliary Corps at Fort Des Moines training center. They will complete their four-week course soon, and be assigned to non-combatant duties now performed by able-bodied soldiers. They are, front row, left to right: Auxiliaries Dixie Farni, Moorwood; Charlotte Mansfield, Garber, and Mildred Klippenstein, Oklahoma City. Back row, l. to r., Jean Frost, Tulsa; Genevieve Leonard, Enid; Golda Johnson, Tulsa; Jo Helen Horton, Tulsa.

At the right, Auxiliary Juanita Roberts, Enid, keeps vigil over a kettle of potatoes cooking on one of the large ranges in a WAAC kitchen at the Fort Des Moines training center. She will graduate from the bakers and cooks sub-school soon as a first or second cook.



Public relations was Third Officer Helen Frenzenberger's job at Stillwater before she joined the WAAC. She is now doing public relations work at Des Moines. She is on military leave from the staff of publications and journalism department at A. and M. college at Stillwater, and was the first officer candidate sworn in in Oklahoma last July.



Oklahoma WAACS

Well-traveled Leader society editor retires

Research made Helen F. Holmes proud of Oklahoma heritage



Election coverage, although normally outside the society considerable time for the Leader. Here she talks to candidate editor's realm, became an area where Helen F. Holmes put in who called to inquire about election results.

The history of Logan County, Oklahoma was a four-year project which Helen completed in 1981.

Friday, Sept. 24 was the last day of work for Helen F. Holmes, Leader society editor. Supposedly, she is going to "retire to her volunteer work."

However, total retirement seems unlikely considering the number of careers she has had since growing up on a farm near Coyle.

Her stint with the Guthrie Daily Leader was a brief one, beginning in July 1981. But it stands as one of many, which included journalism, the military and agriculture.

Among her undertakings was a two-volume history of Logan County. She worked on it for four years, and completed it in spring of 1981.

She has also participated in the area's history. She has been an active Democrat, and served as mayor of Guthrie for over a year beginning in 1981. Also, she was the first

Oklahoman to enter the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.

Above all, her research has made her proud to be an Oklahoman, she says.

She found in her research that Oklahoma's entry as a state was opposed for years by Eastern financial interests because the proposed state constitution was deemed "dangerously liberal."

It contained provisions for fair labor laws, and proposed a state corporation commission to regulate, in part, the railroads.

"There was a laissez-faire attitude at the time that you should let the corporations do whatever they wanted," she says. However, Oklahomans had seen the ill effects of their unbridled operations in other states.

She is still active with the Logan Co.

Historical Society, which assisted her with the books. Over 1,100 family entries compiled volume one. Volume two contained a general history of the area.

Also, she works with the county Genealogical Society and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

She was born Dec. 15, 1915 to John Andrew and Theresa (Kerner) Freudenberger. The youngest of eight children, she attended a parochial grade school in Pleasant Valley and graduated from Coyle High School in 1932 as valedictorian.

She grew up during the Depression. Although she was not terribly interested in politics at the time, the events did shape her views toward government.

"I was young, and at the time I was only interested in what was in front of

my nose," she says.

She says that the Depression revealed to her a society unable to cope with calamity on a mass scale. Unemployment insurance and other benefits for jobless workers were nonexistent at the time.

"In the terrible winter of the early thirties, they found five families in tents with children. An appeal went out (from the Leader) for blankets," she said.

She became active in the Democratic party and continues to be a supporter, she says.

The federal Works Project Authority, she says, was used to get people back to work. Although it was the butt of many jokes, she says that many towns benefitted from their projects. In Guthrie, Jelma Stadium, Highland Hall, the armory and the

Santa Fe Railroad viaduct were all WPA projects.

"There was a big joke about people leaning on their shovels. But, the people did have to get out and work for their money."

She said that with 33 percent unemployment in the cities, "they were clearly close to revolution."

Oklahoma, despite the Dust Bowl of the Middle Thirties, tended to fare better than more urbanized areas, she says.

"A lot of people moved back to the farms," she says. "It didn't cost very much cash to live. No one had any fancy clothes."

But the clothes issue brought out praise for perma-press fabrics. She recalls the white, starched "ice cream pants" which she had to iron for her brothers.

The items were pressed with irons heated on a metal stove. And, care had to be taken to keep them clean during pressing.

"You'd get about finished with a pair, change irons, and get a streak of soot on them. Back in the wash they go," she recalls, shaking her head.

"I'm sure glad those Good Old Days are gone!"

Before World War II, she received an English degree from Oklahoma A & M College, (now Oklahoma State University) in 1938. Upon graduation, she served as editor for the Maud Daily Enterprise, the smallest daily paper in Oklahoma.

Studies at the University of Wisconsin as a University Scholar brought her a masters in agricultural journalism in 1940. She returned to Oklahoma A&M as a journalism instructor after receiving her masters.

At the advent of United States involvement in World War II, she became the first Women's Auxiliary Army Corps from Oklahoma, and entered officer's training in at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa in July 1942.

She worked in public relations with the WAAC and served in Army Air Corps intelligence after the women were integrated into the regular Army as the WAIC. She served in occupied Germany, and was retired on disability as a major in 1948.

Retired Major Helen Freudenberger married Robert F. Holmes Dec. 19, 1949 and moved to a farm back in Pleasant Valley in 1950.

Prior to the move, she served as editor of Flying Farmer Magazine for almost a year.

Robert Holmes died in 1982, but Helen and children remained on the farm until 1979.

The Holmes family has two sons and a daughter. Oldest son Charles, 36, is a captain in the U.S. Army. He currently serves in the ROTC Department at Texas A & M. "He's become a Texas in the worst way," notes his Sooner mother.

William, 28, is finishing up final hours for a Georgetown University Law School degree at Oklahoma University. He was a Rotary Scholar in Oxford, England in 1978.

Andrea, 22, completed an accounting degree in Oklahoma State and now works for the state auditor's office.



On her final day of work, Helen goes through last-minute notes with her successor Cherie Hamilton.

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Story and photos by John Patrick Orr

A portrait of then Captain Helen Freudenberger, taken in Heidelberg, Germany after World War II. The photographer was Tina Hin, a favorite of the era.



A Petition to
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From the Members of
Fourth Estate Club

Professional Group

-of

Oklahoma A. & M. College



helen Freudenberger, sponsor.

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GENERAL GEO. C. MARSHALL
Chief of Staff



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
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HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War



COLONEL DON C. FAITH
*W. A. A. C. Training Center
Commandant*



GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
*Commander in Chief
Southwest Pacific Area*



MRS. OVETA CULP HOBBY
*Director of the
Women's Army Auxiliary Corps*



PROGRAM

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

OFFICERS FIRST GRADUATION CLASS

Banquet Tendered by

Des Moines Retailers War Activities Committee

HOTEL FORT DES MOINES

Saturday, August 29th, 1942 — 7 P. M.



WELCOME

HARRY GINSBERG, *President Des Moines Retailers War Activities Committee*



TOASTMASTER

W. W. WAYMACK, *Executive Editor, the Editorial Pages,
The Des Moines Register and Tribune*



Among Those Appearing on the Program This Evening—

RT. REV. GERALD T. BERGAN
Bishop of the Des Moines Diocese

COL. DON C. FAITH
Commandant WAAC, Ft. Des Moines, Iowa

DOCTOR HENRY HARMON
President Drake University, Des Moines

MRS. OVETA CULP HOBBY
Director, Womens Army Auxiliary Corp



Seventeen-year-old Marcy (Marilyn Jeane) McGuire, of Des Moines, a former Roosevelt High School student, and now known as the female Mickey Rooney of RKO studios in Hollywood, will thrill you this evening with her Irish voice. She just completed an appearance with Victor Mature in "Seven Days' Leave" and returns to Hollywood soon for more productions.



Speakers Table: BRIG. GEN. CHAS. H. GRAHL, RABBI EUGENE MANNHEIMER, REV. STODDARD LANE, BISHOP GERALD T. BERGAN, W. W. WAYMACK, DOCTOR HENRY HARMON, COL. AND MRS. DON C. FAITH, THE HONORABLE AND MRS. WILLIAM P. HOBBY, MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK E. UHL, CONGRESSWOMAN MRS. EDITH NOURSE ROGERS, MAJ. GEN. J. A. ULIO.

Music during the dinner hour by Lynn Kerns and the Rythm Club Orchestra

Floral Arrangements and Decorations Through the Courtesy of The Des Moines Florists Association



Menu

*An Iowa Dinner of
Iowa Products*



IOWA MUSCATINE CANTALOUPE

RELISHES

NATIVE IOWA CORN-FED PIG — STUFFED



QUARTERED CINNAMON IOWA APPLE

PARISIENNE IOWA POTATOES PARSILADE

WHOLE KERNEL IOWA CORN

PETITE ROLLS

IOWA BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

SPECIAL STUFFED IOWA TOMATO



THE WAAC CAP IOWA ICE CREAM

COCOANUT ROCKS

COFFEE

Reilly, Lillian W., Phoenix, Arizona
 Rice, Jessie P., Griffin, Georgia
 Riddle, Catharine B., Norfolk, Virginia
 Ringgold, Beatrice I., Long Island, New York
 Rosenberg, Bee G., Chicago, Illinois
 Ross, Rose F., New York, New York
 Ryan, Dorothy M., Chicago, Illinois
 Sage, Elise E., New York, New York
 Salvesson, Stella M., Burbank, California
 Schmidt, Jean W., Bronx, New York
 Schultz, Viola E., Chicago, Illinois
 Simas, Mae I., Reno, Nevada
 Smith, Dorothy A., Staten Island, New York
 Smith, Hazel H., Syracuse, New York
 Smith, Mary S., Clark, Missouri
 Spangenberg, Mary P., Elmhurst, Illinois

Spivak, Ruth, Chicago, Illinois
 Stearns, Elizabeth W., New York, New York
 Stewart, Ethel L., Worth, Illinois
 Strongin, Joan R., Far Rockaway, New York
 Stull, Katherine, Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Thorp, Gretchen M., San Francisco, California
 Tollefson, Christie M., Montville, New Jersey
 Trumpp, Elizabeth A., Brooklyn, New York
 Tucker, Mary L., St. Louis, Missouri
 Van Bolt, Lucile G., Burlingame, California
 Warren, Dorothy, New York, New York
 Watson, Gwendolyn J., Tucson, Arizona
 Welch, Treila M., Houston, Texas
 White, Martha R., Lufkin, Texas
 Whiting, Sophia U., Denver, Colorado

★

Fourth Company - First Regiment

Adcock, Jennie M., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Alinder, Anne E., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Altaffer, Bessie V., Independence, Kansas
 Anthony, Jessie M., San Antonio, Texas
 Asbury, Laura L., Billings, Montana
 Bartholomew, Lavern F., Ashland, Wisconsin
 Bass, Cora W., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Bayley, Isabel, Buffalo, New York
 Beeler, Virginia E., South Seattle, Washington
 Bogdan, Sophia J., Buffalo, New York
 Booker, Mary M., Waukegan, Illinois
 Boyle, Jean, Topeka, Kansas
 Bradbury, Evelyn M., Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Brown, Jean L., West Charlotte, North Carolina
 Bussard, Dorothy R., Spokane, Washington
 Caldwell, Laura H., Thomasville, Georgia
 Campbell, Alline, W. Birmingham, Alabama
 Campbell, Grace P., Washington, D. C.
 Clampitte, Virginia R., Houston, Texas
 Cole, Vada L., Lubbock, Texas
 Cooke, Betty J., Charlotte, North Carolina
 Cox, Edna L., Seattle, Washington
 Cranney, Marie T., Albany, New York
 Dahlberg, Ebba L., Merrill, Wisconsin
 Davis, Emily C., Beverly Hills, California
 Dennis, Marguerite B., Detroit, Michigan
 Donlon, Dorothy J., Bellingham, Washington
 Draham, Katherine P., Olympia, Washington
 D'Urbal, Madeleine M., Spokane, Washington
 Epperson, Doris E., Clinton, Mississippi
 Fling, Marjorie D., Alexandria, Virginia
 Flowers, Flewellyn, Thomasville, Georgia
 Fowler, Alcesta F., Birmingham, Alabama
 Fraser, Margaret A., Hartford, Connecticut
 Freeman, Mary C., Newnan, Georgia
Freudenberger, Helen L., Stillwater, Oklahoma

Galloway, Mera, Evanston, Illinois
 Gardiner, Helen G., Detroit, Michigan
 Gilbert, Elizabeth H., West Herrietta, New York
 Goodwin, Katherine R., Hartford, Connecticut
 Griffin, Melba, Montevallo, Alabama
 Gutwillig, Jacqueline G., New York, New York
 Hanson, Helen E., Des Moines, Iowa
 Harvey, Frances O., Arlington, Texas
 Hathaway, Emily M., San Luis Obispo, California
 Hazen, Elizabeth S., White River Jct., Vermont
 Herman, Leona B., Buffalo, New York
 Hinton, Evelyn A., Cranbrook, British Columbia
 Hisgen, Katherine M., Albany, New York
 Hugo, Marjorie G., Memphis, Tennessee
 Hunt, Marjorie O., Rensselaer, New York
 Idema, Mary B., Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Jenkins, Ruth R., Floydada, Texas
 Johnson, Kathryn K., Clavemont, California
 Kane, Isabel B., Tacoma, Washington
 Knowlton, Anna L., Anniston, Alabama
 Lathrope, Francis M., Kankakee, Illinois
 LeBow, Mary R., Omaha, Nebraska
 Lee, Kathleen L., Fort Worth, Texas
 Leeds, Doris J., Kansas City, Missouri
 Letzig, Margaret H., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Marple, Marcia T., North Seattle, Washington
 Massey, Oma R., Poolville, Texas
 McCall, Muriel A., Seattle, Washington
 McCandlish, Dorothy L., Kansas City, Missouri
 McClure, Kathleen, Los Angeles, California
 McGlenn, Mary E., Bellingham, Washington
 Milbourn, Hazel E., Sno Homish, Washington
 Miller, Mary G., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 Miller, Mary M., Los Angeles, California
 Monroe, Elaine F., Savannah, Georgia
 Moon, Christine S., Ruston, Louisiana

Helen Freudenberger Holmes

FOR CITY COUNCIL

- ☆ Learning From History
- ☆ Living in the Present
- ☆ Let's Work For the Future




Oklahoma Horizons Series

INDOMITABLE OKLAHOMA WOMEN



by
OPAL HARTSELL BROWN

MAJ. HELEN FREUDENBERGER HOLMES
(1915-)
Lady on the Wing

Helen Freudenberger did it all. After graduating from Coyle High School as valedictorian in



War and illness did not stop Major Helen Freudenberger Holmes. She forged ahead to become a homemaker, mayor of Guthrie, author, and more. This photograph was taken in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1947. (Courtesy Helen Freudenberger Holmes)

1932 and Oklahoma A&M College at Stillwater with honors in 1936, this flying lady took off into professions unlimited.³¹

Her first position was editor of the *Maud Daily Enterprise*, and next she became public relations director back at A&M. The later position included writing material for state and national publications, such as *Life*. In addition, she appeared three times a week on radio from a Tulsa station. Helen went from there to instructor in journalism and organized Theta Sigma Phi on campus.³²

Meanwhile, this "Lady on Wings" earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Remaining on top of her work, she was a University Scholar. Then world affairs changed her direction.³³ In 1942, it looked as if the Allies were losing World War II. The Japanese were blasting through the Far East—Malaya, Singapore, Burma.... The Fascists of Germany and Italy were

rolling over the rest of Europe and the Soviet Union as if they were paper empires.³⁴

The United States was sorely threatened. Its citizens were fired to patriotic hostility. The younger generation, not already drafted, volunteered for the military services. Helen Freudenberger was one of them. She went on military leave from the college to become the first member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACS) from Oklahoma in the first class of officer candidates in that organization. Helen received a commission as Second Lieutenant and became a public relations officer in charge of the *Minority Press* at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.³⁵

From there she transferred to the Military District of Washington to be in charge of public relations for the WAACS at that place. The WAAC was integrated into the Army in 1943 as the Women's Army Corps (WACS). This change moved Helen into the position of intelligence officer with the Army Air Corps in Washington, D.C. After VE Day, she went to Germany with the Army of Occupation as an intelligence officer. Later she became assistant to the Inspector General of the Stuttgart Military Command.

An illness sent her into retirement as a major and to treatment in Veterans Administration facilities in the United States.³⁶ After recovery, that "Lady on the Wing" flew in a completely different direction. On December 19, 1949, she married Robert Holmes in Guthrie. They settled on a farm near Coyle, a small town in Logan County. The couple became parents of three children: Charles Matthew, William James, and Andrea Margaret. While they were growing up, Helen participated in all their school activities: the Parent-Teachers' Association, 4-H Club, sports.... When the need arose, she served in several positions as an officer.³⁷ As a result of her interest and involvement in the school, Helen was chosen Honorary Chapter Farmer of the Coyle Future Farmers of America.

In 1962, death claimed Robert Holmes. His family remained on the farm ten more years, then moved to Guthrie. The children being mature, the "Lady with Wings" flew in a fourth direction. She became a docent for the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie and active in Extension Homemakers. She edited and was principal author of the two volumes of *Logan County History*, published in 1979 and 1981. Another of her projects was a book on Guthrie homes.³⁸

During those years of history writing, Helen

was making history in politics. She became a member of the City Council, then mayor of Guthrie from 1979 to 1981. At the end of her term, she was far from retiring. She became chairman of several Logan County organizations: the Council on Aging, Friends of the Library, Logan County League of Democrats, and Oklahoma Territory Museum docents.³⁹

Each April for about seven years, Helen wrote the "Historical Section" for the *Guthrie Daily Leader's 89er Edition*. She served as coordinator for citizens' participation in the 1989 Centennial Celebration of Oklahoma's first land run.

As a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Guthrie, Helen has been president of its Women's Missionary League and teacher of the Adult Bible Class. Added to all that and more, Helen has spoken on a variety of subjects for organizations and at public gatherings.

Her life on wings reaches back to her parents—German immigrants, John Andrew and Theresa Karmer Freudenberger. Her father was a Spanish-American War veteran and her mother an industrious and inspiring Frau.⁴⁰ The eighth and youngest child of the Freudenberger family, Helen grew up on the farm at Coyle. She learned to work and achieve. That was the way she chalked up so many "firsts" in numerous fields of endeavor.

WAR DEPARTMENT

FORT DES MOINES, IOWA



A-803000

SERIAL NO

Aug. 11, 1942

DATE ISSUED

Miss Helen L. Freudenberger

NAME OF EMPLOYEE (Typed)

Co. 4, 1st Reg. W.A.A.C.

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

R. E. Clements

ISSUING OFFICER:

Lt. R. E. CLEMENTS

Commanding
POSTMASTER



MAJOR HELEN L. (FREUDENBERGER) HOLMES
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
RETIRED

—
PINNING CEREMONY
PROMOTION TO 2nd OFFICER
WAAC

—
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
CHRISTMAS 1942

—
RIGHT: COLONEL CHARLES F. JOHNSON, HEAD, ROTC, OAMC



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN T. LEWIS, COMMANDING GENERAL,
MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, EXTENDS
CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST LIEUTENANT
HELEN L. FREUDENBERGER ON THE OCCASION OF
WAC OFFICERS BEING SWORN INTO THE ARMY OF
THE UNITED STATES, 1 SEPTEMBER 1943.



MAJOR HELEN L. (FREUDENBERGER) HOLMES
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
RETIRED

—
WAC, WASHINGTON D.C.

—
CIRCA 1944



MAJOR HELEN L. (FREUDENBERGER) HOLMES
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
RETIRED

—
AS MAYOR
—

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
AMERICAN LEGION POST
GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA
1980



MAJOR HELEN L. (FREUDENBERGER) HOLMES
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
RETIRED

~

CIRCA 1988