

On October 23, 2021, **CORDELIA STEEN CHAPTER DEDICATED A DAR HISTORIAL MARKER** to the Steen family at their burial site at Gracelawn Cemetery in Edmond. The marker is a permanent and accessible way for the community to learn about and honor the family's contributions to the founding of our city.



"In Honor of John, Cordelia, and Charles Steen, First pioneer family of Edmond, Oklahoma. John Steen arrived at Mile Marker 103 in December 1886, as a water superintendent for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. He was assigned to oversee the construction of a 128-foot deep by 30-foot diameter well that would serve the new coaling and watering station for steam engines. The station, first known as Mile Marker 103 and then Summit, was renamed Edmond in March 1887. In November of that year, John's wife Cordelia and their son Charles joined him. The family's arrival preceded the early settlers who came to the area in the Oklahoma Land Run of April 22, 1889, and formally established the town of Edmond. We honor the Steen family and their invaluable contributions to the City of Edmond. Marker placed by Cordelia Steen Chapter, NSDAR" October 23, 2021"

A newly developed lesson plan and hands-on learning activities were donated to the EHS&M for the **LAND RUN LEARNING TRUNK** on December 7, 2021. Available on loan to public, private, and homeschool teachers, the lesson engages 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in learning about the Steen family and their experiences during the Land Run of April 22, 1889 – a seminal event in Edmond's history.



The very first award of **THE CORDELIA STEEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** to Logan Day, a junior year history major at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, took place on December 13, 2021 at UCO. Cordelia Steen Chapter developed this scholarship in partnership with the descendants of John and Cordelia Steen, to help students reach their educational goals, and as a means to honor and commemorate the Steen family's enduring contributions to the founding of Edmond.



# Remembering John, Cordelia and Charles Steen

The First Pioneer Family of  
Edmond, Oklahoma, 1887



*John, Cordelia and Charles Steen*



*Edmond, I.T., before the  
Land Run of April 22, 1889*



Daughters of the American Revolution

**CORDELIA STEEN CHAPTER**

Edmond, Oklahoma

[cordeliasteennsdar.weebly.com](http://cordeliasteennsdar.weebly.com)



*The first Christmas tree in Edmond, Oklahoma. The Steen Family at their Edmond Station pump house home, December 25, 1888.*

**IN DECEMBER 1886**, John Steen arrived at Mile Marker 103 in the Unassigned Lands of Indian Territory as a water superintendent for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. He was tasked with supervising the construction of a 128-foot deep by 30-foot diameter well for a new railway station. In March 1887, the station was named Edmond, and in June the station opened. In November 1887, Cordelia and son Charles joined John at the station, and together **they became Edmond's first pioneer family**. The family was Edmond's *only* residents for 17 months before the Land Run of April 22, 1889, which formally established the town.

**THE STEEN FAMILY** continued to contribute to the development and growth of Edmond through Cordelia's civic endeavors with the first schools and churches, and John's work as an alderman and as the president of the Edmond Board of Trustees. Son Charley, in addition to being a Mason, was chief of the Edmond Fire Department.

**CHARLEY MARRIED** Minnie Shoptaugh in 1908, and they had one daughter, Adeline, born in 1910. Minnie ran a boarding house for Central State College students for 40 years, and while no other buildings related to the Steen family exist today, the boarding house can still be found at 224 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Edmond's downtown area.



*Minnie, Adeline and Charley Steen, 1922*

**THE STEEN'S STORY** has largely been forgotten in Edmond, but from our chapter's inception in February 2020, we have worked hard to share their story with the community, and to find ways to ensure it will be prominent and enduring.

***The Cordelia Steen Chapter, NSDAR, is the first entity in Edmond named for the Steen's – the first pioneer family of our city.***

**IN 2021 OUR CHAPTER** completed four projects to share the Steen family's history, and to provide our community with learning about their contributions to the founding of Edmond.

## **STEEN MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION** August 5, 2021



Cordelia Steen Chapter initiated and led the effort with the City of Edmond, the Edmond Historic Preservation Trust (EHPT) and the Edmond Historical Society & Museum

(EHS&M), to name the BNSF Railway bridge for the Steen's, a fitting tribute to their history and legacy, particularly because the bridge is where Edmond Station was located. Four descendants of the Steen family participated in the ceremony, along with chapter and state DAR members, city officials, and representatives from the EHPT, the EHS&M, and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

