

Mary Hewett Bailey

Mary Hewett Bailey taught in the Chickasha Public Schools for over 40 years. Her true passion was researching and teaching history. She brought great insight and enthusiasm to her discussions about Oklahoma History, especially about Chickasha and the Grady county history.

She was born one of five children to Judge Frank M. Bailey and Hope Hewett Bailey on May 23, 1909, in Chickasha. Mary was a lifetime resident of Chickasha, graduating from Chickasha High School in 1926. She began teaching history in Chickasha in September of 1933 after teaching in Anadarko for two years.

She maintained a great fondness for her many students from 42 years of teaching. She continued to enjoy visiting with her former students and hearing about their lives and families. CHS class reunions were always a highlight for her. In 1970, she was names Teacher of the Year by the State Fair of Oklahoma.

Ms. Bailey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and government at the University of Oklahoma, and received a degree in English and mathematics at Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, now U.S.A.O. Mary earned a Masters Degree in history at the University of Oklahoma, publishing a thesis on the history of Grady County.

She was a member of Epworth United Methodist church where she served on many committees and was active in the United Methodist Women. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Phi, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Oklahoma Education Association (OEA), Grady county Historical Society and the Oklahoma Historical Society. Mary held many offices in these organizations ranging from president to treasurer. She was instrumental in organizing the Girl Scouts of American in Chickasha and served on many civic organizations.

Mrs. Bailey was inducted into the Chickasha High School Hall of Fame in 1987.