McNutt, Thorne Remembered with Scholarship

**McNutt**

**Thorne**

A scholarship idea was born when Point Remove Band’s Council Chief, Jon McNutt, of Cheyenne, Wyoming decided that a scholarship would be “a good way to take care of two pretty ladies,” he said -- McNutt’s cousin, Ruby Thorne, whom he had met late in life through their genealogy research and his late wife, Beverly McNutt.

McNutt had traveled to Arkansas and Oklahoma on a genealogy quest for more than 25 years when he halted search for the Western Cherokee Nation connection on his dad’s side of the family long enough to attend a famiy reunion on his mom’s side of the family. Through the lineage of his mom, Ruby Newman McNutt, McNutt was finally able to prove a connection to the Western Cherokee Nation.

McNutt and his late wife, Beverly, attended the Newman family reunion in Eufala, Oklahoma and there met the now late Ruby Thorne of Eufala, he said. Thorne died in July of 2017, and Beverly McNutt died in January of 2019,

Thorne’s sister and McNutt’s mother were sisters, McNutt said, McNutt said. Thorne’s sister was his mother’s older sister, he said. Thorne was involved with the Western Cherokee Nation, where she was involved with the geneaology committee, McNutt said. “I wanted to know more,” McNutt said.

Thorne helped convince McNutt to get involved with the Western Cherokee Nation. He applied, was accepted, and he convinced\* and helped other family members join as well. McNutt now serves as the Council Chief for the Point Remove Band, which is located in Conway County in Arkansas, with Morrilton being the county seat.

After more than 25 years of traveling to the Arkansas/Oklahoma area to prove a connection to the Western Cherokee Nation believed to be there, McNutt finally succeeded in making the connection.