



*City Gallery,*

221 NINTH STREET,

*Huntington, N. C.*

## **Okey Euling Sansom**

Son of Hugh Washington and Sarah Sansom

Brother to Martha Sansom

Born Feb 1878

Died Dec ? 1906

Married Eliza Crockett on July 3, 1902

She was expecting her second child, Herman, when Okey drowned.

They had two sons-Shirley Vey Sansom and Herman Okey Sansom Okey was struck in the head, robbed, and drowned as a result of his injuries while attempting to float logs down the river into Huntington/Kenova, WV.

The story is that he had quite a large sum of money on his person and intended to purchase the property where Cabell Huntington Hospital is located in Huntington, WV when he died. After being gone for several months, with no word from him, Eliza, his wife, and one of her brother's, Rollen Crockett, "Uncle Roll," went to Catlettsburg, KY to a gypsy woman who was able to tell them exactly what had happened to him and where they would find his body. She told them that he would be found by an old chimney stack of an abandoned house near where Beech Fork State Park is now. That is exactly where they found his body. He was found with his money clip missing, and only his pocket watch on him.

Over the course of the next several years, court probate and will records in Wayne, WV will show that large sums of money were taken by other members of his immediate family, including his own father, Hugh Washington. His widow, Eliza, with two small children to raise, was left with little to nothing. She would sell eggs, bacon, milk, butter, and many other things to make ends meet. She died at a very young age from the Flu and pneumonia because she had to continue working on the farm and couldn't take time to rest and heal.