

THE FOUNDING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF
CHICKASHA, OKLAHOMA

By

Tommy Wayne Stringer

//
Bachelor of Arts

Oklahoma Christian College

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1967

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate
College of the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Degree
of MASTER OF ARTS
July, 1971

THE FOUNDING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF
CHICKASHA, OKLAHOMA

Thesis Approved:

Odie B. Famb

Thesis Adviser

Homer L. Knight

D. Durban

Dean of the Graduate College

803759

..

PREFACE

This study has as its purpose the presentation of an account of the events surrounding the founding, settlement, and early development of Chickasha, Oklahoma. An attempt has been made to trace the circumstances relating to the background of the area prior to white settlement through the development of the town to 1910. The material for this study has been gathered from city records, newspaper accounts, and personal interviews.

The writer wishes to take this opportunity to express his appreciation to Dr. Odie B. Faulk for his advice and encouragement in helping prepare the paper. A word of appreciation is also in order to the citizens of Chickasha. The writer is grateful to each citizen who gave time for interviews, personal items, and advice. The cooperation of these people was very helpful and very much appreciated.

An extra special word of thanks goes to my wife, Cheryl, for the time she spent typing this paper, her understanding, and her encouragement. She was a vital part in the preparation of this paper.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. BACKGROUND FOR SETTLEMENT	1
Indian Agreements and Treaties	2
Naming of the Town	3
Early Explorers	4
Early Settlements	6
II. FOUNDING AND EARLY DAYS	9
Early Day Problems	11
III. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	17
Development of Laws	17
Organization of City Government	22
Statehood Issue	26
Prohibition	28
IV. CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS	31
Churches	31
Schools	35
Library	40
Entertainment	41
Newspapers	43
V. BUSINESS AND ECONOMY	46
Agriculture Provides Livelihood	46
Financial Institutions and City Economics	50
Transportation and Public Services	51
Secondary Economic Concerns	55
VI. CONCLUSION	58
A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	60
APPENDIX A - BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTED CHICKASHA CITIZENS	65
Judge Frank M. Bailey	65
George R. Beeler, Sr.	68
George Evans	70
Dr. Daniel M. Johnston	72

APPENDIX B - EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	75
History of Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts	
From 1910-1971	75
Jane Brooks School	78
APPENDIX C - LIST OF BUSINESSES IN CHICKASHA IN 1898	79

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND FOR SETTLEMENT

Chickasha, Oklahoma, has developed from a barren tent city to one of the state's most important communities in just three-quarters of a century. Born on a barren prairie in Indian Territory, the city struggled through numerous natural and legal difficulties to guarantee her residents the privileges, services, conveniences, and necessities that were available to any other American citizen. With desire and determination the city leaders devoted themselves to making Chickasha a respectable and comfortable city in which to live.¹ The purpose of this paper is to show how the community overcame the numerous problems which it faced

¹The following studies have been done in the general area of the history of Chickasha: Robert Alexander, "A Study in the Community Problems of Chickasha, Oklahoma" (unpub. M.S. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1932).

Mary Hewett Bailey, "A History of Grady County" (unpub. M.S. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1937).

Dr. Anna Lewis, collection of writings on file in Nash Library Archives, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Owen Vaughn, "The History of Chickasha," paper presented to Chamber of Commerce (typescript).

Weedman, untitled article concerning history of Chickasha, 1937, on file in Oklahoma Historical Society Library, Sponsored by Writers' Program of WPA (typescript).

during the late territorial and early statehood period from 1892 to 1910. By taking advantage of the opportunities which were available, it became a thriving and important city in Oklahoma. Social, political, and economic factors all contributed to the development of Chickasha, and each will be discussed in the contents of this study.

Indian Agreements and Treaties

The land that is now included in the city of Chickasha has a long and colorful history. Its first legal owners were the Choctaws who came to Indian Territory over the torture-filled "Trail of Tears." By the Treaty of Doaks Stand in 1820, they were given the vast area of what is now southern Oklahoma in return for their native lands in Mississippi. They controlled this area until 1837 when in the Treaty of Doaksville the Chickasaws also were granted territory in the Choctaw nation. Almost from the beginning, the Chickasaws were unhappy with the new arrangement. Fierce bands of Kickapoos, Kiowas, and Comanches made the lives and property of the Chickasaws unsafe. As a minority group, the Chickasaws had little power in the Choctaw government, and pride made them resent this domination. By 1845 Chickasaw nationalism became evident, and a secession movement began. However, it was not until ten years later that the effort was rewarded. In a treaty signed in 1855, the Chickasaws were granted separate lands of their own in the old Choctaw nation. The district which they were given

was situated between the western boundary of the Moshulatubbee District of the Choctaw nation and the 98th degree of west longitude. The Chickasaws divided their territory into four counties: Pickens, Pontoc, Panola, and Tishomingo. The city of Chickasha was in Pickens County, the westernmost of the four counties.² Consequently, the territory that would become Chickasha came under control of the Chickasaw Indians, where it would remain until the city, as such, came into existence.

Naming of the Town

The name of the city was derived from the Chickasaws. According to Indian legend, a powerful tribe was migrating to the setting sun in response to a revelation given to the medicine men and prophets by the Great Spirit. Each night a pole was erected in the camp. The direction toward which the pole was leaning the next morning gave them their direction for travel that day. After a long journey they arrived at a country which abounded in game, fruit, fertile soil, and clear water. At this place the pole stood erect, indicating that this was the place the Spirit had chosen for them; their trip was ended. At a subsequent council meeting a majority decision was reached to remain at the selected site; however, the head of one clan took issue with the council's decision and encouraged part of the tribe to continue the journey to a

²A. M. Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries (Norman: Harlow Publishing Corp., 1965), pp. 125-129.

better land. When warriors took up spears to enforce the decision of the council, the wise principal chief, rising, stretched forth his hand and spoke, "Hamonocka, ika, asishka chickasha." This Indian sentence means, "Halt, follow them not; they are rebels." It is from this term "rebels" ("Chickasha") that the city of Chickasha derives its name.³

The man credited with actually naming the town is Edward Schon Burney, an early-day peace officer of the settlement. A Chickasaw, Burney was a member of the Chickasaw Townsite Company. Many cities along the Rock Island line were given Indian names, but Chickasha was one of the few named for an area tribe. Most of them were named for northern tribes. Actually, there is evidence that the name has been perverted from what Burney intended. Probably his pronunciation placed the accent on the second syllable rather than on the first. Hence, the name would have been pronounced Chick a'sha rather than the English pronunciation we use today.⁴

Early Explorers

This area was in the path of many explorers. An 1834 expedition under the leadership of Henry Leavenworth crossed the Chickasha area going west to make treaties with various tribes of Plains Indians. George Catlin, a noted artist, accompanied the expedition and produced interesting pencil

³Chickasha Daily Express, Pioneer and Progress Edition, Sept. 8, 1937, Section B, p. 6.

⁴Ibid., p. 2.

sketches of Indian life in the area. Then in 1849 Captain Randolph B. Marcy crossed the Chickasha area while surveying the California Trail, a route later used by numerous western emigrants. This trail followed along the south banks of the South Canadian River. Numerous early explorers mentioned the presence of villages inhabited by the Wichita Indians. Numerous records remain of the grass houses and the agricultural accomplishments of these peaceful Indians.⁵

The area is also important because two of the most important trails of the American West passed through it. The old stage line from Boggy Depot to the newly established agencies among the Plains Indians and to Fort Sill crossed the Chickasha area. Even more important was the Chisholm Trail, which was blazed by Jesse Chisholm in 1867 from Texas to Kansas. Over this legendary trail passed millions of head of cattle en route to the Kansas railheads for shipment to market. The trail was a few miles east of the present day city of Chickasha. (Traces of the Chisholm Trail can still be seen today.) The area became vital to the drovers as an ideal watering site for the herds. Later the cattlemen and Indians worked out agreements whereby the Indians leased pasture to the cattlemen. Thus, from the beginning, Chickasha was noted as an important cattle raising area.⁶

The Chickasha area was almost undisturbed during the

⁵Anna Lewis, "Grady County," article published in Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, Section A, p. 1.

⁶Gibson, Oklahoma, p. 280.

1880's. Wild game of all varieties abounded in the area, and the creeks and the Canadian River teemed with fish. Hunters had little trouble in securing a good kill of turkey, geese, quail, duck, or deer. The prairie land remained unbroken. A traveler could see for miles, with only the large herds of cattle, or an occasional teamster passing by to break the endless view.

Early Settlements

But, civilization was destined to move into the area. White settlers gradually began to appear on the prairies; one by one communities began to spring up in the area around Chickasha. Two communities were important forerunners of Chickasha, and each merits discussion. When the Chisholm Trail started north, trading posts were built at various river crossings. Five miles east of Chickasha the Washita River had a rocky bottom, making it easy for cattle to cross without bogging. In the mid 1870's Walter S. Cook and his brother built a store there and named it Fred for Colonel Frank Fred. In 1881 the store was moved to the point where the wagon road from Fort Arbuckle to Anadarko crossed the Chisholm Trail. As the big cattle drives were coming to an end, trade with freighters and stage lines brought the store owners most of their business. A post office remained at Fred until 1894.

Fred consisted of six buildings--two stores, a doctor's office, a blacksmith shop, and two residences. One home was

owned by the Cooks; the other by William Moncrief, a former scout for Colonel Randolph B. Marcy. Citizens of Fred had high hopes that the railroad would choose their town as the location of a station along the Rock Island line. When the railroad bypassed them, Fred died almost immediately.⁷

The other forerunner of Chickasha was the community of Pensee. Located about three miles north of present day Chickasha, this settlement was first called Waco. However, confusion with the Texas town of the same name led to the changing of the name to Pensee. The land on which Pensee was located was owned by Joe Cordell, who became a partner in the Chickasaw Townsite Company. The town, which consisted of a few stores, a restaurant, a doctor's office, and a post office, met the same fate as Fred when the railroad bypassed it. The postmaster from Chickasha had to ride out to Pensee for the mail until permission was given by the government of the United States to move the post office into Chickasha.⁸

As far as Chickasha proper is concerned during this era, settlers were few, to say the least. The first known white resident in the area was George Beeler, Sr.⁹ Beeler and a partner, Julius Doss, operated the Swinging Ring Ranch. Beeler's house, which served as a stage stop, stood at the present site of Seventh Street and Choctaw Avenue. The ranch,

⁷Lewis, "Trading Post at the Crossing of the Chickasaw Trails," Chronicles of Oklahoma (Dec., 1934), XXI, 447.

⁸G. H. Shirk, "First Post Offices Within the Boundaries of Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma (Summer, 1948), XX, 221.

⁹See Appendix A for biography of George Beeler, Sr.

consisting of approximately 1,400 acres, was eight miles in circumference and furnished employment for about twenty men. Roundups were held on what is now the campus of Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts. Beeler left his Chickasha home in 1889 and moved south to found the town of Minnekah.¹⁰

There was only one other house at that time in what was to become Chickasha. It was located at Eleventh and Kansas. Although positive identification of the owner is unknown, it possibly was the home of James and Annie Speed, the town-site's original owners.¹¹

While a small number of settlers recognized the opportunities that were available in the Chickasha area, it took one major decision to bring into reality the bustling, thriving community that would become Chickasha, Oklahoma.

¹⁰George Beeler, Jr., a private interview held in Chickasha, Jan. 6, 1971.

¹¹Chickasha Daily Express, April 13, 1927, p. 3.

CHAPTER II

FOUNDING AND EARLY DAYS

While the railroad meant death to the communities of Fred and Pensee, it meant birth to Chickasha. The Rock Island Railroad needed a division point between Caldwell, Kansas, and Fort Worth, Texas. Several towns in the area were vying for this station house. Minco's dreams for becoming this division point never materialized, however, and the cattlemen of Rush Springs chose to use their abundant water supply for their stock rather than giving it to the railroad. Consequently, the Rock Island selected a site that had been allotted to James L. Speed, an intermarried citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. The tent city of Chickasha thus was born on April 2, 1892, when railroad officials unloaded an old boxcar to serve as their temporary headquarters.¹

The railroad, however, had nothing to do with laying out the town proper. This was done by the Chickasaw Townsite Company, which was composed of C. L. Cambell, C. B. Cambell, Joe Cordell, James H. Tuttle, James L. Speed, and Mr. Speed's wife, Annie.² The original townsite consisted of ninety-

¹Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 30.

²Robert Alexander, "A Study in the Community Problems of Chickasha, Oklahoma" (unpub. M.S. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1932), p. 10.

four blocks. The eastern boundary was the Rock Island Railroad, while the east line of Ninth Street served as the western boundary. The streets north of Chickasha Avenue were Choctaw, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin, with the latter serving as the northern boundary. The streets south of Chickasha Avenue were Kansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Dakota, and Idaho, with Idaho serving as the southern boundary. The only change made in the original plat was the changing of the name of Washita Avenue to Sixth Street.³

The fact that the new citizens of Chickasha could not legally own the land did not deter the rapid settlement and growth of the town. Among the first buildings built in the new town was a small house shipped in by sections from Leroy, Kansas, by Elijah Robinson. This frame building was on the Rock Island right-of-way, and Robinson used it as a boarding house to accommodate the railroad workmen.⁴ Another of the early buildings was a two-story structure at the corner of Second Street and Chickasha Avenue. The upper story of the building, which was built by a Mr. Fitzpatrick, was used for a residence and for boarding rooms. Later two more floors were added, and the building became the McFarland Hotel.⁵

On the city's first day of existence, Dr. Daniel M.

³Plat, Survey of Indian Territory, April 29, 1901, filed in Plat Book No. 1 in Grady County Courthouse, p. 6.

⁴D. C. Gideon, History of Indian Territory (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1901), 1, 191.

⁵Owen Vaughn, "The History of Chickasha," paper presented to Chamber of Commerce, p. 6 (typescript).

Johnston moved his one-room office building from Pensee.⁶ He used a team of six oxen to transport the building to its new place on Chickasha Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets.⁷ Another early building was the Leland Hotel, located at the corner of First Street and Chickasha Avenue. This structure, built by W. T. Lancaster, was destroyed by a fire which swept through that entire block in 1898.⁸

Early Day Problems

Many early buildings were flimsy, box-type, wooden buildings; that is, they consisted of one-by-twelves running up and down, fastened by narrow strips. The reason so many buildings were of such temporary nature was that the owners had no legal title to the land. Technically the land still was the property of the Chickasaws. Afraid that the required government action would not be taken to give them full title to the land, many businessmen were reluctant to invest heavily in buildings which they might lose.

Another distinctive feature of many of the early buildings was their being built on "stilts" because of the floods. In fact, during the dry season the townspeople "parked" their horses beneath the buildings; the "stilts" were some twelve feet above the ground. They were high enough for a

⁶See Appendix A for biography of Dr. Daniel M. Johnston.

⁷Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 7.

⁸Keppel W. Hill, A History of St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Chickasha, Okla.: By the Author, 1931), p. 2.

mounted rider to maneuver his horse beneath the buildings.⁹ From the outset, the flooding of the Washita River and Line Creek presented numerous problems for Chickasha's citizens. To show the extent of the problem, it might be noted that for a time there was a ferry system across Chickasha Avenue. After a heavy rain a huge slough developed in the area near Third Street. As the water often was waist deep, most people saw fit to take advantage of the ferry services offered by "Jinny" Stewart, who did a profitable business with his buckboard by charging five cents for hauling a pedestrian across the main street of Chickasha's business district.¹⁰

Many humorous tales are related to the flood and mud problems in the years labelled as "B.P." (before pavement). For example, after a moderate rain a large mudhole developed between Second and Third Streets; the problem was further complicated when an electric light wire fell into the muddy pool, charging the water to a degree of several volts beyond the point of comfort. It was about this pool of water that children of the town gathered to watch the frolic as unsuspecting travelers ventured down this street. Pioneers Frank Stone and Jim Hill recalled two particular incidents that happened on a Sunday morning as they watched the pool many years ago. A family plodded down the street with the father perched upon the front seat flogging his team as the rest of the family, dressed in their Sunday best, sat on cane-bottom

⁹Beeler, interview, Jan. 6, 1971.

¹⁰Chickasha Daily Express, July 14, 1957, p. 1.

chairs in the rear of their wagon. When the horses hit the edge of the water, things began to happen. Both horses cut a dido and landed squarely in the middle of the pond. The unsuspecting family found themselves first on the floor of their wagon, their cane-bottom chairs having capsized, and then in the mudhole. This befuddled and angry family was thoroughly spattered with mud when they finally emerged to the safety zone. A short time later a sleepy Negro rider on a tired old mule sauntered down the street. When they hit that pond, the mule was the first to wake up. As the old mule received shock from the electrified pool, he not only dumped his rider into the "hot water" but he also landed several well-placed kicks on the bewildered rider before the Negro could get to the banks of the mudhole.¹¹

Pedestrians also faced hardships during the rains. Dr. S. O. Marrs records the following story of such a problem:

. . . Never will I forget the time one of the storekeepers who had been drinking a little too heavily, started across the street on a plank and fell into a water hole. He would have drowned if someone hadn't rescued him with the use of a rope.¹²

Because of Chickasha's location in Indian Territory, it might be assumed that the city experienced an Indian problem. Such was not the case, however. In fact, the people who settled in the town were not full-blood Chickasaws. The usual ancestry of these people was Indian on their mother's side

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, Section B, p.

and white on their father's. A second group was intermarried whites. When a person married a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, he immediately assumed full citizenship in the nation. This group of people was sometimes referred to as "galvanized." The third group was the white traders who secured permits to come into the Chickasaw Nation for business reasons. For seven dollars per annum they could run a business within the Indian nation. Such permits were known as squatter's rights. Of course, many whites were also in the area illegally. The number of troops in the vicinity was small, and whites met little resistance from them.

Thus there were no full-blood Chickasaws in the town of Chickasha at the time of its founding. However, full-blood Indians were frequent visitors in Chickasha and in nearby towns. The Indians, dressed in their colorful blankets, from the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Reservation southwest of Chickasha frequently were seen in the city. Even Geronimo and Quannah Parker are said to have been frequent guests at the old Grand Avenue Hotel.¹³ Though many citizens of Chickasha had Indian ancestry themselves, they had abandoned tribal customs and had adopted the white man's mode of life. Hence, they were fascinated, but somewhat afraid of their Indian visitors.

The merchants had mixed feelings about the Indians. As they spoke little or no English, the Indians were not easy for the merchants to wait on. Indians often took much time

¹³Mrs. Harry Phillips, a private interview held in Chickasha, Feb. 16, 1971.

in selecting the small amount of cotton print material he would buy, and the merchant disliked spending his time for the small sale he would make.

The Indians had regular camping grounds when they came into town. One group regularly camped on the lot where St. Luke's Episcopal Church now stands on South Sixth Street. They preferred to stay outdoors, and they would vacate their temporary camp as suddenly as they had erected it. While many of the townspeople feared the Indians, there is no record that there was any problem with them in the way of violence. They would sometimes wander into homes and look around or take something to eat from the cupboard, but there is no record of their doing anyone physical harm.

Although the community still had many inconveniences and adversities, Chickasha continued to grow fast. By 1900 the young community boasted a population of 3,209.¹⁴ It offered its citizens electric power and both local and long distance telephone service.¹⁵ Various business services also were available to the residents of Chickasha. Among the business establishments of the city were a five-hundred-barrel flour mill, an eighty-ton cotton-seed oil mill, twelve retail grocers, eight dry goods stores, four hardware stores, four lumberyards, three banks, five drug stores, and

¹⁴Abstract of the Twelfth Census, 1900, United States Bureau of Census (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1904), p. 139.

¹⁵Chickasha Evening Telegram, April 9, 1902, p. 1, reports that the telephone system was set up to handle 300 telephones, and by 1902 a total of 279 phones were in use.

three hotels. The citizens also had educational facilities with two school buildings. Moreover, they had full medical and dental services available, as several fine doctors and dentists had located in town. The prospect of opening the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache lands to the south promised even more settlers to the Chickasha area. Also rumors of valuable minerals in the Wichita Mountains promised more wealth to the area, particularly since the Chickasha railroad lines would profit from the shipping of these minerals. The potential of Chickasha thus seemed unlimited--fertile farm lands, abundant water supply, excellent transportation facilities, and advanced business opportunities pointed Chickasha toward a most promising future. At the time that Oklahoma became a state the citizens proudly referred to their city as the "Queen of the Washita" and the "Cotton Capital of the Southwest."

CHAPTER III

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Chickasha was very unusual in its political beginnings. For almost a decade the city existed in a relatively peaceful state without any genuine city governmental organization or any city laws. At times life was comparable to the days of the Old West, especially in the earliest years of Chickasha's history when almost every man went about his business with a six shooter strapped to his leg. At least one gunfight on the streets of Chickasha was recorded. Two men had quarreled, and when they met by accident in front of the 66 Saloon, each took refuge behind a lamp post and began firing at the other. As the excited onlookers ducked for cover, they heard several shots fired. The battle ended presently with no permanent damage done to life, limb, or property.¹

Development of Laws

From the city's beginning in 1892 until 1895, each man was more or less a law unto himself. A United States District Court had been established at Ardmore in 1890 to settle disputes between whites living in Indian Territory and also disagreements between whites and Indians. This court operated

¹Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, Section B, p. 1.

under the laws of the state of Arkansas.² In 1895 a growing population made it necessary to increase the number of courts in the Southern District, the district where Chickasha was located. Consequently courts were established at Ryan, Purcell, Pauls Valley, and Chickasha to supplement the existing court at Ardmore. A semi-annual session was to be held at each place.³ Chickasha's first resident judge was C. B. Killgore, who died just after taking office. His successor was Judge Hosea Townsend. M. M. Beavers served for a time as United States Commissioner, to be succeeded by E. M. Payne. Chickasha, like the other court towns, also had a clerk, a constable, and a jailer.⁴

The first federal courthouse was built in 1896 at Fourth and Choctaw (the same site as the present Grady County Courthouse). The building was erected by the Chickasha Investment Company, consisting of J. H. Griffin, M. M. Beavers, J. E. Bohart, and J. W. Speake. The city jail was separated from the courthouse proper. It was built with the intention of being a "hotel" for prisoners awaiting trial. If the prisoner received a sentence of thirty days or more, he was sent to Ardmore to serve his time. If the sentence exceeded one year, the prisoner was sent to Muskogee, as Chickasha's facilities were inadequate for holding prisoners for long

²Edward Everett Dale and Morris Wardell, History of Oklahoma (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964), pp. 287-288.

³Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 7.

⁴Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 3.

periods of time. This first city jail, which now stands in Shannon Springs Park, measured forty feet long and sixteen feet wide. Its two cells measured sixteen feet square. The walls were four feet thick, and the structure was surrounded by a stockade. Evidence of two escape attempts are visible even today. Prisoners attempted to burn through the walls with iron plates. Al Jennings, noted Oklahoma train robber, was held in this jail while he awaited trial for holding up a Rock Island train near Pocasset. He was convicted and sentenced to federal prison in Ohio.⁵ The courthouse was never owned by the United States; rather it was rented for eleven years at eighty dollars per month. After statehood Grady County rented the building for \$425 per quarter. This practice continued until 1910.⁶

Despite the fact that Chickasha was progressing, one major handicap still existed in the days before statehood. For several years after the establishment of Chickasha, it still was impossible to obtain a legal title for lots within the city. No one who built a home could be sure he would be able to keep it. Consequently, many of the earliest buildings and residences were frame structures which could easily be moved or abandoned without the owner sustaining a substantial loss. However, the fact that other cities under

⁵"Shannon Springs Jail," article on file in Okla. Historical Society Library, pp. 1-3 (typescript).

⁶Weedman, article concerning history of Chickasha on file in Okla. Historical Society Library, Sponsored by Writers' Program of WPA, p. 7 (typescript).

similar conditions in Indian Territory had been permitted to grant legal titles gave Chickasha property holders confidence that they too would have this property protection. As a result of this feeling, the people began to construct more substantial residences and places of business. Their faith was rewarded with the signing of the Atoka Agreement on April 23, 1897. The agreement granted "possessor's rights" to the holder of the lot, enabling him to have first claim to legal title of the property. The following warrenty deed is a sample of the holder's claim to the land.

(Chickasaw Nation)
 (Pickens County)
 (Indian Territory)

Know All Men By
 These Present

That We, C. L. Cambell, C. B. Cambell, Joe Cordell, James H. Tuttle, J. L. Speed, joined by his wife Annie Speed, residents of said county and nation, through Edwin W. Sandison, our duly authorized agent and attorney in fact, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Twenty-five and no/100 Dollars, to us in hand paid by Mary D. Harpold, the receipt of which sum is hereby acknowledged, have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Mary D. Harpold and to her heirs or assigns the right and privilege to use and occupy the following lot or parcel of land situated in Pickens County in said Chickasaw Nation, to-wit:

In the town of Chickasha, it being lot No. one and two, in block No. 98, first addition, as shown by plat of said town, and we and each of us do hereby quit claim all our right, title, claim, and interest in or to the possession of said above described parcel of land unto the said Mary D. Harpold and to her heirs and assigns, and we do hereby for the above named consideration agree and bind ourselves, and each of us, that neither the said Mary D. Harpold, her heirs, or assigns shall ever in any manner be disturbed by us in his or their possession of said parcel of land unless Mary D. Harpold, her heirs, and assigns shall be first paid all sums of money which the said Mary D. Harpold, her heirs, and assigns paid for the right

and privilege to use and occupy said parcel of land, and in addition the said Mary D. Harpold, her heirs, and assigns shall be repaid in money the full cost and value of all improvements placed and constructed on said parcel of land together with interest at the rate of ten percent per annum from and after the date were paid or expended, and such other damages as may accrue to the said Mary D. Harpold, her heirs, or assigns.

In Testimony Whereof, witness our hands this, the _____ day of _____, 1892.

Witness: _____

	(s) C. L. Cambell
	(s) C. B. Cambell
Said lots or	(s) Joe Cordell
75 x 165 feet	(s) James H. Tuttle
	(s) J. L. Speed
	(s) Annie Speed

By their Agent and Attorney in fact,
Edwin W. Sandison
By his Agent and Attorney in fact,
F. E. Gilmore

Endorsed: For value received
I hereby assign the within
instrument to E. S. Burney this
May 27, 1893
Mary D. Harpold⁷

An appraisal commission was appointed by Congress to evaluate each lot. If the lot contained improvements, the holder of "possessor's rights" at the time of the appraisal had first opportunity to purchase the lot at one-half the appraised value. If the holder of the "possessor's rights" would not or could not buy the lot, it was to be sold at public auction. The terms for the purchase of such lots were one-fourth down and the remainder to be paid in three equal annual payments. The revenue from the sale of these lots was to be placed in the tribal treasury of the Chickasaw

⁷Alexander, "Community Problems," p. 37.

Nation.⁸ The ability of the citizens to obtain clear legal title to the property was a major contributing factor to the early growth and development of Chickasha as a city. No longer did they fear losing their homes or businesses because of the absence of a legal title. This led to the next important step in the political growth of Chickasha--its organization of a city government.

Organization of City Government

By 1899 it was evident that Chickasha had a permanent future. In the summer of that year a group of interested citizens met for the purpose of organizing a city government and securing a city charter. B. F. Holding was elected the attorney to draw up transcripts for getting the city charter and the incorporation of the town. Appointed to assist Holding in this effort were W. C. Pimm and Billy Stone. The three men proceeded to draft the necessary papers and to take a census of the town. Others who took part were J. W. Speake, United States Court Clerk, and his superior, Charles Camp of Ardmore. Their efforts were rewarded on November 6, 1899, when Chickasha was incorporated as a city of second class.⁹ Ike Cloud and Rube Cochran were appointed to conduct the first elections, which were held in the fall of 1899.

⁸Seth K. Corden and W. B. Richards, compilers, Oklahoma Red Book (2 vols., Okla. City: Democratic Pub. Co., 1912), I, 534.

⁹Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 6. A city of second class is one which has a population of between 1,000 and 2,500 people.

These elections saw P. B. Monical chosen the city's first mayor. The first aldermen elected were W. G. Armstrong, J. C. Bohart, R. M. Cochran, J. O. Hill, W. W. Horn, and R. N. Murphy. John Hartman was chosen the first chief of police, but since there were no city ordinances to enforce, his duties were minimal.¹⁰

The first City Council meeting was held on January 4, 1900. W. T. Cloud acted as recorder (clerk) for the meeting, which was held in the office of the United States Indian Commissioner. The first action by the newly elected City Council was the creation of a Board of Health. This board consisted of Dr. D. M. Johnston, Dr. J. E. Stinson, Dr. George McGaughy, and W. C. Pima. It was the job of these men to oversee the fight against a serious smallpox epidemic which threatened the city.¹¹ The smallpox epidemic did develop and during the winter and springs of 1900 and 1901 numerous efforts were undertaken to bring the outbreak under control. Schools were closed and most public meetings were cancelled. The townspeople realized the danger of exposure to this dread disease; hence, they voluntarily avoided personal contact with as many people as possible.

The problem was worsened by visitors, unaware of the extent of the epidemic, coming into town and mingling with the citizens. Because of Chickasha's geographic location, most of these visitors were Indians. With their narrow

¹⁰City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of Jan. 4, 1900.

¹¹Ibid.

understanding of the contagiousness of this disease and also their limited ability to speak English, it was difficult to stop their traffic in Chickasha. In October of 1900 the City Council instructed Mayor Monical to communicate with Major Ranlett, Commander of Fort Sill, and ask him to keep the Indians away from town until he was notified further about the state of the smallpox epidemic.¹² This did not, however, halt Indian traffic to and from Chickasha. The City Council decided upon stronger action to keep the Indians, as well as other visitors, out of town. They placed one guard on the Anadarko road leading into town and another guard on the train to help enforce a quarantine until the highly contagious disease could be brought under control.¹³

Another of the early programs of the new City Council was the construction of drainage ditches to reduce the flooding problem in the business district of Chickasha.¹⁴

On February 18, 1902, with a population of slightly over 5,000 the community was granted a charter as a first class city under the laws of Arkansas in the United States District Court, eastern district of Indian Territory, before Judge Hosea Townsend.¹⁵

¹²City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of Oct. 29, 1900.

¹³City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of Dec. 28, 1900.

¹⁴City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of March 6, 1900.

¹⁵City Charter, located in City Hall, filed in permanent records in office of City Clerk. A city of first class is one which has a population of over 2,500.

The city of Chickasha shared a mutual problem with other cities of the early Twentieth Century--the automobile. Among the early automobile owners in Chickasha were Jack Abercrombie, M. D. Conrad, and Dr. Coulter. Protests mounted from citizens who complained that the "gas buggies" not only were too noisy but also that they frightened horses and were therefore dangerous. Finally the City Council took action on the issue and passed a city ordinance prohibiting automobile driving on Chickasha Avenue between Sixth Street and the Rock Island Depot.¹⁶

As has already been mentioned, one of Chickasha's major problems in its early days was travel on the city streets. During dry seasons a blanket of dust covered the streets, while rain made many of the streets into little less than mudholes. Most of the action of the City Council during these first years of existence dealt with the problems of improving the city streets.

In order to protect the citizens against fire, the city of Chickasha set up a volunteer bucket brigade in January of 1900. George Brown served as fire chief when the department was housed in a small building on South Third Street. Later it was moved to Fourth and Kansas. Fire-fighting equipment included a horse-drawn chemical wagon and a hose wagon. The alarm system was relatively simple; everyone began firing his gun into the air when a fire was discovered.

¹⁶Chickasha Daily Express, Pioneer and Progress Edition, July 14, 1957, p. 1.

The fire department became motorized in 1911.¹⁷

Statehood Issue

Chickasha was not obsessed merely with local problems and issues. Topics of state and national interest concerned the citizens as well. Two major issues stood out. Since the creation of the Twin Territories,¹⁸ the question of statehood had been the major topic of discussion in the territories. But the problem of statehood was not a simple one. Many citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes favored admitting the two territories as separate states, with Indian Territory being admitted as an Indian state. They even managed to elect delegates, hold a convention, and write a constitution for their proposed state of Sequoyah.¹⁹ But the residents of Chickasha, although it was in Indian Territory, favored single statehood for the two territories. Chickasha's location on the extreme western boundary of Indian Territory probably gives the answer to its position on this issue. Oklahoma Territory was only a few miles away,

¹⁷Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 8.

¹⁸Present day Oklahoma was divided into Twin Territories, Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. Indian Territory, which composed the eastern section of today's Oklahoma, was the home of the Five Civilized Tribes, who had come to the area over the infamous "Trail of Tears." Oklahoma Territory, which comprised the western half of the Sooner State, was organized and granted territorial status under the Organic Act of 1890. The two territories were fused into Oklahoma and admitted as the forty-sixth state. Gibson, Oklahoma, p. 284.

¹⁹Edwin McReynolds, Oklahoma: History of the Sooner State (Norman: University of Okla. Press, 1964), p. 313.

and Chickasha had close connections with Oklahoma Territory. Newspaper editorials encouraged single statehood.

By the time the issue came to a head, Chickasha's position was perfectly clear. On July 12, 1905, a convention supporting single statehood was held at Delmar Gardens in Oklahoma City. A chartered train carried an estimated 1,000 citizens of Chickasha to the convention to lend their support. Specially printed handkerchiefs were given out by the Chickasha delegation stating their feelings on the matter.

C H I C K A S H A
10,000 Strong for Single Statehood
July 12, 1905

Mr. & Mrs. Will B. State	:	
Announce	:	Beautiful
The Marriage of Their Adopted Daughter	:	I. T.
Indian T.	:	And Big
to	:	O. T.
Mr. O. K. Lahoma	:	Will Be
March 6, 1906	:	O. K.
At Washington, D. C.	:	Lahoma
	:	

H A R M O N Y
Should Be the Watchword of This Convention
Wipe the Double Statehood Dust Out of Your Eyes²⁰

Chickasha continued to support the one state plan. Cad Allard, George Evans, Alger Melton, George Barefoot, and Frank M. Bailey²¹ were sent by the city to Washington, D. C., to lobby for the measure. Their lobbying interests also were aimed at having Chickasha appointed a federal court town after statehood came. They met with President Theodore

²⁰Original handkerchief is in Nash Library at Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

²¹See Appendix A for biography of Frank M. Bailey.

Roosevelt and talked with Senators and Congressmen, urging the passage of their two items of interest.²² Evidently the delegation was influential because both measures were secured. When statehood finally was approved by Congress with the Enabling Act of 1906, Chickasha and Grady County, as expected, supported the newly written constitution. The election results showed that 3,554 county voters favored the adoption of the constitution, while only 656 voters opposed it.²³

Prohibition

Another major issue during the early decades of Chickasha's existence was prohibition. Since the earliest days of Indian Territory, prohibition had been the law; in fact, no state or territory in the Union had such stringent laws against the selling of intoxicating liquors as existed in the Indian Territory. The law concerning prohibition was not always enforced, however. In 1898 at least five saloons were operating in Chickasha. Among the better known establishments were the Line House, The Mint, The Headlight, the 66 Saloon, and the 77 Saloon. Gambling was also carried on in these establishments.²⁴ According to the laws of Indian Territory, the minimum penalty for introducing and selling intoxicants was one year in the penitentiary and a fine, while simply intro-

²²Chickasha Daily Express, Nov. 1, 1942, p. 7.

²³W. B. Richards, compiler, Oklahoma Red Book (2 vols., Okla. City: Tulsa Daily Democrat, 1912), II, 575.

²⁴Chickasha Express, Nov. 24, 1898, p. 3.

ducing intoxicants was a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$100 and thirty days in jail.²⁵ Yet, even with these stiff penalties staring men in the face, they continued to break the prohibition law. It seems safe to say that as much liquor and beer was introduced into Indian Territory under the strict prohibition law as would have been with the free and untrammelled sale of liquor. Hundreds of indictments were found in grand jury proceedings, but there were few convictions in the courtroom. In fact, there were more than 100 such cases on the docket for the court in Ardmore in 1898.²⁶ Although court dockets were filled with cases concerning violation of the prohibition law, it seemed to be as the old-timers often said, "Prohibition does not prohibit."²⁷ The prohibition question came at the time of Oklahoma's admission as a state. Concerning the statewide prohibition question, Grady county voted for prohibition by a margin of 2,569 to 1,315.²⁸

In fifteen short years Chickasha had advanced from a "rag-tag" town with no organized government to a county seat and a federal court city. An interested city government worked hard at solving the municipal problems. Extensive

²⁵Corden and Richards, Red Book, p. 121.

²⁶Editorial, Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 5.

²⁷Indian Territory also had problems with a mixture of "anything with intoxicating ingredients with death lurking in it" known as "bitters." From 1894 to 1898 three men died in Chickasha, as reported in an editorial in the Chickasha Express, November 17, 1898, as the result of an overdose of "bitters." "Bitters" was often sold under the guise of a medicine to cure all the ills that human flesh is heir to.

²⁸Richards, Red Book, p. 292.

street pavement and other street improvement programs gradually eliminated the problem of transportation (or lack of it) during rainy weather. A fire department and a law enforcement agency had been created for the citizens' protection. In 1903 a \$15,000 bond issue was approved to provide for construction of a city water system. Three years later a \$25,000 bond issue provided funds to build a sewer system.²⁹ Bond issues also were approved to build school buildings and facilities. Truly, Chickasha had made rapid progress in its short period of existence from 1892 until Oklahoma statehood in 1907.

²⁹"Chickasha," article prepared by Chamber of Commerce, on file in City Clerk's office in City Hall, p. 1.

CHAPTER IV

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Although Chickasha was founded on the rugged frontier, its citizens showed a keen interest in things of a cultural nature. From Chickasha's earliest days schools, churches, newspapers, a library, an opera house, fraternal clubs, and other such organizations prospered.

Churches

Although such social evils as gambling and alcohol were popular among some Chickasha residents, others were more concerned with matters of a spiritual nature. These citizens promptly began to organize the various religious groups and began meeting regularly for worship and for instruction. The first denomination to organize in the city was the Presbyterian Church. The town was a mere two months old when a Sunday School missionary began working to start a church. His result was an officially organized body some six months later, on Christmas Day, 1892. The church owned the only meeting house in town for several months but was generous in allowing its building to be used by other groups for worship periods. The first pastor, Eugene Hamilton, was respected in the city. By 1898 the congregation, which met at Sixth

and Minnesota, claimed a membership of fifty.¹

Then other religious groups followed the Presbyterians and began to organize and meet regularly. At approximately the same time, the First Baptist Church organized with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Claycomb, Mr. Oneal, Mr. Fanis, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Monical, Mrs. Riddle, and Mrs. Thomas. T. E. Covington served as the church's first pastor. Other early pastors were H. B. McGee and H. R. Best. This Baptist group met for worship on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of each month. Their membership at the turn of the century numbered approximately seventy.²

In March, 1892, a group began organizing St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Their first public worship service was scheduled for June, 1892, in the Presbyterian building. The streets literally were a quagmire on the scheduled meeting day, however, making it virtually impossible to travel from town to the church building. To solve the problem the Presbyterian minister, Eugene Hamilton, offered to let this group meet in his apartment for their first church service. By scouring the streets, the Episcopal group finally induced approximately twenty-five people to assemble for their first meeting. After this, the Episcopal Church met every fourth Sunday in the Presbyterian Church building.³

¹Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 2.

²Chickasha Evening Telegram, April 14, 1900, p. 2.

³Hill, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, p. 4.

The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began organizing as a result of the efforts of Mrs. Lillian Bohart Welsh. Upon her arrival in Chickasha in 1892, Mrs. Welsh began trying to locate people who claimed membership in the Christian Church. The Presbyterians, having the lone church building in town, agreed to make their meeting house available to the Disciples. For a short time before securing the use of the Presbyterian building, the Disciples, under the guidance of S. E. Kennedy, pastor, met in a vacant building on Chickasha Avenue. Then in 1894 they built their own building at Sixth and Iowa. With a total of 150 members in 1898, a rapid period of growth increased the membership to 203 by 1904 when a new brick building was constructed to replace the old frame one.⁴

The Catholics began their work in Chickasha early in the city's existence. Isadore Ricklin, a Benedictine Priest, came to Chickasha from Anadarko in 1892. His work was primarily with the Indians. The Catholics purchased the lot that they still own on South Seventh Street in 1892 and built a meeting house on it. They gathered in this building on the first and third Sundays of each month. For a number of years they operated St. Joseph's Academy, an Indian boarding school. By 1898 the Catholics claimed a membership of 100 people.⁵

⁴"A Brief History of the First Christian Church,"
Compiled from church records, 1968, pp. 3-6 (mimeographed).

⁵Church records, Holy Name Catholic Church.

About 1892 J. J. Methvin, an early-day missionary to the Oklahoma Indians, urged the Methodists to begin work among the Indians in the Chickasha area. Methvin's urgings resulted in the appointment of J. K. Florence to the circuit around Chickasha.⁶ In 1894 the Methodist Episcopal Church South was formally organized in the city by A. B. L. Hunkapillar. This congregation was composed of about twelve members at the time of its formation. By the time of Hunkapillar's resignation four years later, the membership had grown to 100.⁷

A group of Negroes organized a Baptist Church early in the city's development. In 1894 the group split into two factions. However, with the help of the Baptist Association in Oklahoma City, a reconciliation was made between the two groups, with the exception of a few hold-out members. The two factions united into the New Hope Baptist Church which met twice a month.⁸

The religious community of Chickasha was strong during its early days. Other groups organized later, but these groups enumerated above took the early leadership. Church services were held both on Sunday mornings and evenings, as well as prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings in Chickasha. Many Chickasha citizens attended all three of the regular

⁶Alexander, "Community Problems," p. 47.

⁷Church records, Epworth United Methodist Church.

⁸Chickasha Express, Aug. 29, 1895, p. 4.

services, as they provided social opportunities as well as spiritual enrichment.⁹

Schools

While the churches organized early, the organization of a system of public education was a thorny problem. In 1894 a school was conducted by the Presbyterian Church under the direction of its pastor, Eugene Hamilton, assisted by Howard Miller. This school was attended by children of all ages and religious denominations. As there were no city taxes or public support for the school, a tuition of three dollars per month was charged the students.¹⁰

In 1894 community action resulted in the donation of both money and labor to construct a two-story school building,

⁹Other religious groups developed within a few years. Among those who still meet in Chickasha are the following:

The Lutheran Church was founded in Chickasha in 1911 by several Norwegian families. Their first pastor was A. C. Kreyling, a German. They claimed a membership of thirty-seven communicant members and sixty-five baptized souls. The church met in the Knights of Pythias hall. (It is ironic that these Lutherans believed that holding a membership in a lodge was sinful, yet the church used a building owned by a lodge for their meeting house.) Church records, Lutheran Church.

The Church of Christ had its beginning in Chickasha in 1915. J. R. Jobe served as the first minister for the congregation. By 1916 the church had a local membership of sixty people. Church records, Church of Christ.

In 1918 the First Assembly of God Church was organized in Chickasha. The small congregation was served by Jodie Thomas, Minister, and they met in an old Methodist Church building. Church records, First Assembly of God Church.

¹⁰Chickasha Evening Telegram, April 7, 1902, p. 5.

the Chickasha Academy. The top story was used as a teacher-age, while the two-roomed first floor served as classrooms. Miss Molly Mangum was the teacher from 1894 to 1897. In 1897 the school graduated a ninth grade class of four students. Mrs. Mattie Chestnut Sager was another of the early teachers in the Chickasha Academy.¹¹

In November, 1898, Father Isadore Ricklin established a Catholic school which was intended to serve the needs of pupils of all ages and religions. This school, St. Joseph's Academy, also required tuition payments for support. Though St. Joseph's Academy was open to all children, it mainly served as an Indian boarding school.¹²

With the incorporation of the city in 1899 came new hope for the educational community. Ordinance number twenty-six called for an ad valorem tax and other measures of school support; Ordinance number twenty-seven called for the establishment of free public schools.¹³ On April 3, 1900, a system of public schools was established with an enrollment of 400 students. W. A. Dolzell was placed in charge of the school. Since suitable facilities were not available, a number of buildings were rented and partitions were torn out to accommodate classes.¹⁴ In 1902 the citizens approved a

¹¹Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 2.

¹²Church records, Holy Name Catholic Church.

¹³City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of Feb. 19, 1900.

¹⁴Chickasha Evening Telegram, April 7, 1902, p. 4.

\$65,000 bond issue for the construction of three brick school buildings. The school board in 1902 consisted of J. A. Rose, D. E. Emerson, E. M. Payne, L. B. Monical, and Reford Bond. This board appointed Jonas Cook as superintendent of Chickasha Schools. That year saw enrollment increase to 900 students. The faculty consisted of the following members:

First Grade	Cora Wibley and Beatrice Wibley
Second Grade	Mamie Spencer
Third Grade	Marion McCune and Goldie Wilson
Fourth Grade	Essie Bell
Fifth Grade	Mary B. Leonard and Mary Brown
Sixth Grade	Minnie Fitch
Seventh Grade	Agnes Lynch
Eighth Grade	Virginia Graves ¹⁵

Very early in 1902 the city of Chickasha incorporated the tract of land comprising the colored settlement east of the railroad tracks.¹⁶ With this addition of land area came the responsibility for providing educational facilities for these new town citizens. In April of 1902 Oscar Spencer, a teacher in the black school, reported an enrollment of eighty-five pupils.¹⁷ By 1910 the school system was complete. It was composed of the following elementary schools:

¹⁵Ibid., p. 5.

¹⁶City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of April 17, 1900.

¹⁷Chickasha Evening Telegram, April 7, 1902, p. 4.

Lincoln, South, West, and North schools. Each was housed in two-story buildings. Chickasha also provided a junior high school, the first in the state, and the high school held classes on the second floor of the Carnegie Library.¹⁸

In time facilities were added for higher education. Among the first acts of the Oklahoma Legislature in the 1908 session was the creation of a girls' college. Competition was brisk for the location of the school, with Guthrie and Chickasha as the prime contenders. Senate Bill Number 249, introduced by Senator W. P. Stewart of Hugo, called for the college to be located in Chickasha. This bill was approved on May 16, 1908.¹⁹ The school was to be open to all white female citizens of Oklahoma between the ages of twelve and thirty-five. Prospective students were required to pass an examination in the areas of reading, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, and United States history.²⁰ The college, which was the fifth fully state-supported girls' college in the United States, was named Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls.²¹ The original campus consisted of

¹⁸Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 3.

¹⁹Richards, Red Book, p. 193.

²⁰College Catalog, Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls, 1909-1910 (Okla. City: Warden-Enbright Co., 1909), p. 6.

²¹The name of the school was changed in 1916 to Oklahoma College for Women. Those favoring the name change argued that the school was being erroneously thought of as a penal institution because of the name. Many such institutions contained the word "industrial" in their name. Further information concerning later development of the college may be found in Appendix B.

twenty acres donated by J. B. Sparks. His daughter, Nellie, had died while attending a girls' school in Missouri. Wanting to create a suitable memorial for her, he donated the land for the campus. And the first dormitory was named in her honor.

The school opened its doors to 120 students on September 14, 1909. Classes were held in five rooms of the Chickasha High School building. H. B. Abernathy, who received an annual salary of \$2,400, was the first president of Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls.²² The first faculty and staff was composed of the following people:

English and French . . .	Sallie Garrett Abernathy, B.S., A.B.
Science and Physical Culture . . .	May F. Jones, B.S., M.D.
Latin	Jennie Vaughn O'Neilley, A.B.
Mathematics	Lora Linn Garrison, A.B., A.M.
Oratory and German	Olive Leamon McClintie, A.B.
History and Civics	Annie Wade Oneill
Domestic Science	Joy Bell Hancock, B.S.
Fine Arts	Mary E. Wilson
Domestic Arts	Lula M. Freasior
Piano	Ethel Alta Dunn
Voice	Annie Dinsmore McClure
Commercial	R. T. Denbo
Secretary and Registrar	Annie B. Stewart
Librarian	Willie Tucker

²²Van Bielstein, "The History of OCLA, 1908-1970" (unpub. research paper, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, 1970), pp. 1-4.

Matron Mrs. J. J. Rambo
 Superintendent of Buildings J. J. Rambo²³

A business college also offered educational opportunities to Chickasha citizens. Roberts Business College, later called Chickasha Business College, was located on North Third Street. Operated by J. T. Roberts, C. M. Prater, and R. T. Denbo, the school offered training in commercial subjects, including bookkeeping, spelling, practical grammar, penmanship, business letters, arithmetic, commercial law, banking, and typewriting.²⁴

When Oklahoma became a state, Chickasha's educational offerings were quite adequate for the times--free education through high school level, a business college, and a girls' liberal arts college. The Catholics continued to maintain St. Joseph's Academy, which was primarily for Indian boys.²⁵

Library

Chickasha boasted of having the first public library in Indian Territory. In 1903 three women's clubs--Sorosis, New Century, and Chautauqua--began an organized effort to found a public library in town. Then the Andrew Carnegie Foundation granted \$10,000 to Chickasha for the purpose of building a library. In return the city agreed to furnish a building site and to appropriate \$1,000 annually for library

²³College Catalog, p. 9.

²⁴A. Owen Jennings, "Merchants and Manufacturers Records of Indian Territory," Springfield, Ill., 1905, p. 10.

²⁵Church records, Holy Name Catholic Church.

maintenance.²⁶ In April, 1903, the city purchased a lot at the corner of Sixth and Iowa. Three hundred books were bought with money donated by local businessmen. The members of the three clubs donated books and carried on a drive to secure other book donations. By the time the library opened, it boasted a collection of 750 volumes.²⁷ This is another indication of the cultural growth of Chickasha.²⁸

Entertainment

Also among Chickasha's cultural accomplishments was the Wagner Opera House. It was erected by R. S. Tobin, David Goode, and B. S. Bridges. Situated on the second floor of a building on the corner of Chickasha Avenue and Fourth Street, the opera house, which had a seating capacity of about 900, attracted some of the leading personalities of the day. The pioneers remembered for years the concert given by John

²⁶City Council Meeting, Minutes from meeting of Feb. 5, 1903.

²⁷Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 5.

²⁸In 1926 a library for the Negro citizens of Chickasha was begun by Mrs. J. A. Thompson, the Carnegie librarian. The librarian in the new library was Mrs. Dorsey, an English teacher in the black school system. Mrs. Dorsey received no salary; despite this, she was an efficient librarian, keeping the library open during her vacations, and providing a story hour twice each week. Although the collection of books was very small--less than 1,000 volumes--it was made to serve not only the Negro school system but also the 1,600 Negroes in Chickasha. By 1936 Grace Dorsey was employed by the Chickasha School Board during the school term and by the Carnegie Library Board during the summer months, four hours a day, at a monthly salary of thirty-four dollars. Oklahoma Library Commission, Oklahoma Libraries, 1900-1937, p. 134.

Phillip Sousa's band. And a large crowd gathered in the hall to hear William Jennings Bryan speak on the political issues of the day.²⁹ Competition for the opera house came from three primary sources: a nickelodean located in the 100 block of Chickasha Avenue; Dreamland, a moving picture theater; and Scotty's Snooker House located on South Third Street. The snooker hall was fully equipped with four pool tables, two billiards tables, and an electric piano.³⁰

A number of other activities offered entertainment and recreation to the citizens of Chickasha in the early days. Some looked at church attendance as a social event--a chance to see neighbors and fellow citizens. Also dances were held frequently; many old-timers recall attending dances on the second floor of the McFarland Hotel. The Elks Club sponsored dances on the second floor of the present Otasco building at Fourth and Chickasha and also in the Oklahoma National Bank building.³¹ Outdoor gatherings of other types were convened at Fifth Street and Chickasha Avenue. When a Chautauqua Show came to town, this is where the performance often was held.³²

Probably the most popular form of entertainment and recreation in early day Chickasha, however, was in belonging

²⁹Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 4.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Chester Cowan, private interview held in Chickasha, Feb. 26, 1971.

³²Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 5.

to one or more of the lodges, fraternal organizations, and women's clubs. None of them were missing from Chickasha--the Masonic Lodge, DeMolay, Alpha Lodge of Perfection of AASR of Freemasons, Eastern Star, IOOF, Daughters of Rebecca, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Grand Army of the Republic, Elks, and many others.³³ In fact, newspaper obituaries often listed the numerous lodge affiliations of the deceased and omitted his church membership. Practically everyone in town belonged to some lodge or secret fraternal organization.

Newspapers

In order for a city to develop an interest in cultural and social matters, as well as keep abreast of political ideas, its citizens had to be well informed. Chickasha was fortunate in that from the very beginning, a lively newspaper was available to the citizens of the community. In the year of the city's founding, 1892, W. R. Orme established the Chickasha Express to keep the people knowledgeable about the latest developments. In 1893 A. S. Whitehead bought the paper, but the following year he sold it to A. M. Dawson.³⁴ During his tenure, Dawson's conscientiousness can be seen in the following editorial:

. . . It [the Express] has taken up the cudgel of defense of the people's best interest as we

³³Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 8.

³⁴Patricia A. Walker, "Histories of Chickasha Express, Grady County Star, and the Chickasha Democrat" (unpub. research paper, University of Oklahoma, Jan. 20, 1958), pp. 11-12.

saw them. . . . We have no regrets, nothing to retract, believing still that the causes fought were unjust and exposure and opposition justified. . . . To our friends we have only the kindest feelings. To our enemies, if any, we have only a feeling akin to their own.³⁵

In 1903 George Evans read an advertisement in the Kansas City Star for the sale of the Chickasha Express.³⁶ Evans paid the asked price of \$1,500 and became the owner and editor of the paper, a post which he held until his death in 1954 (Dave Vandiver became a partner in 1934).³⁷ The Express began as a weekly (issued on Saturday) and became a daily newspaper on December 28, 1899. But the Express was not Chickasha's only newspaper. At least eight other newspapers were published in Chickasha between the time of its founding in 1892 and the advent of statehood in 1907.³⁸

At approximately the same time that the Express was started, a newspaper called the Weekly Star appeared. H. W. Smith, editor, used his newspaper to advocate the Republican view in politics. In 1895 publication of the Gazette Record was begun. This paper served as an organ for the Christian Church. Another newspaper with a similar name was the Chickasha Record, later called the Union Record; George W. Toman was editor and publisher of this publication. The

³⁵Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 1.

³⁶See Appendix A for biography of George Evans.

³⁷Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 1.

³⁸Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Oklahoma Imprints, 1835-1907 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936), pp. 109-110.

Western Baptist Tribune began in 1898 as an organ of the Baptist Church, and reached a circulation of 3,500 by the time of statehood. R. E. L. McLain was proprietor of a weekly newspaper from 1902 until 1903 known as the Chickasha Democrat. The Chickasha Journal was edited by F. Shatzelin, who began publication of this weekly in 1903. The Weekly Telegram, which was Republican in politics, later became the Evening Telegram. With W. L. Knotts and R. P. Brown as publishers, this Republican paper was issued every evening with the exception of Sunday. The Chickasha Ledger, edited and published by J. C. Mitchell, began publication in October of 1907, only a month prior to statehood.³⁹

From the abundance of publications, it is easily seen that the citizens of Chickasha had every chance to become well informed on the issues of the day. Chickasha had made rapid advancements in cultural and social circles in fifteen years. Newspapers, telephones, and the railroad connected them with the outside world, while a constant inflow of new population brought new ideas into Chickasha.

³⁹Ibid.

CHAPTER V

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Several profitable businesses and industries attracted settlers to the Chickasha area during its early years. As might be expected, the majority of Chickasha's residents were engaged in agriculture. Farming and ranching provided a livelihood for the settlers in the days prior to the settlement of Chickasha as a city. W. H. Gilkey, a pioneer of the town, offered this observation of the area: "Those settlers sure wrecked a good corn field when they settled here. Corn was up to a good stand and sure looked fine."¹

Agriculture Provides Livelihood

Owing to fertile soil and an abundant supply of water, numerous crops flourished. Corn yielded from sixty to ninety bushels per acre and was an important crop to the cattlemen of the area. Ben Morgan, an old-timer in Chickasha, recalled that the farmers would snap their corn instead of shucking it. Cattlemen, who could buy corn for twelve to fifteen cents per bushel, fed their stock every part of the corn--"the shuck, corn, and all." Wheat also produced a

¹Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 5.

high yield, from twenty to thirty bushels per acre.² Broom-corn, alfalfa, and oats provided other valuable cash crops.

Probably the most valuable agricultural crop, however, was cotton. As early as 1892, a newspaper article reported that "Every town on the two railroads have platforms to buy cotton, and it is shipped away in immense quantities."³ With an average yield of from one to one and a half bales an acre, the pioneers boasted that a total crop failure was never known in Chickasaw country; the abundant cotton crops earned Chickasha the self-styled title of "Cotton Capital of the Southwest."⁴ In connection with the cotton crop was the establishment of Chickasha's first major business concern, the Chickasha Cotton Oil Mill. Founded in 1898 by R. K. Wooten, Sr., the company grew to nationwide status. When it began operation, the mill could store 5,000 tons of cotton seed and could mill up to eighty tons of feed per day. The mill sold cotton seed oil, cotton lint, felt, cotton seed meal, cotton seed cake, and other cotton by-products. With a work force of fifty men, this company was incorporated under territorial laws with a \$100,000 stock.⁵

Also related to cotton production, Chickasha had modern cotton gins to separate the lint cotton from the seeds. The

²Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 8.

³Ibid.

⁴"Chickasha--Queen of the Washita," pamphlet prepared by Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, on file at Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, p. 10.

⁵Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 7.

year 1904 saw the construction of a cotton compress. This compress, the largest in Oklahoma, had a capacity of 1,000 bales and a storage capacity of 10,000 bales.⁶ Another business concern sprang up in connection with the cotton gin and the cotton oil mill in Chickasha, the Chickasha Iron Works. In 1904 the Conrad brothers, M. C., and J. J., began operating in a fifty-by-sixty-five-foot sheet iron building. The Conrad brothers, along with five employees, manufactured a number of cotton gin and oil mill parts and castings. They also made complete repairs on any gin or mill machinery that broke down.⁷

The wheat producers also had excellent facilities and markets for their product. Besides providing feed for livestock, wheat producers could sell their crop to the town elevator, which would send the wheat to market. Another option was to sell their wheat to the local milling company where it would be ground into flour. The latter service became available to the farmers in 1899 when E. D. Humphrey of El Reno bought the mill and organized it under territorial laws. The company's stock was valued at \$20,000. The mill began as an expansion of Humphrey's El Reno plant, which was unable to meet the heavy demands of its customers. The Chickasha endeavor proved to be very successful with an increase in capital of \$80,000 and an increase in capacity

⁶Jennings, "Manufacturers Records," p. 10.

⁷"What Chickasha Industries Are Doing," Chickasha, a monthly publication of Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, II (Dec., 1930), 5-6.

of 350 barrels per day, all within a period of three years. So successful was this business venture that the company opened an entire chain of elevators in the Kiowa-Comanche country southwest of Chickasha. Among the men connected with the company besides E. D. Humphrey were E. M. Humphrey, J. E. Nichols, H. B. Johnson, W. H. Yohe, and W. G. Patton. The mill made large shipments not only to the southeastern United States but also to several foreign countries.⁸

The fertile soil likewise raised an excellent quality of fruits and vegetables. Many farmers made use of their large families to work huge gardens. Besides raising sufficient fruit and vegetables to eat during the summer months and preserving a sufficient amount to carry them through the winter months, the farmers shipped out large quantities of their produce. For those fresh goods that could be sent long distances in non-refrigerated train cars, like watermelons, canteloupes, potatoes, and the like, there seemed to be no shortage of a market as the railroads linked Chickasha to almost every section of the nation.⁹

But crop farming was not Chickasha's sole agricultural concern; the cattle industry contributed greatly to the economy. Since the days of the Chisholm Trail, cattlemen had been well aware of the presence of natural pastures and plentiful water supply in the Chickasha area. At the turn of the century Chickasha was the largest cattle feeding point

⁸Ibid., II (May, 1931), p. 5.

⁹Chickasha Express, Jan. 12, 1894, p. 8.

in the United States. Feeding pens covered an area of 160 acres with a feeding capacity for 12,000 head of cattle. An average of 20,000 head of cattle were shipped annually from Chickasha.¹⁰ The Cotton and Oil Mill was a major reason for the growth of Chickasha as a cattle feeding center due to the high protein content of the cottonseed meal and its economical price. Chickasha ranchers enjoyed the advantages of good climate and excellent railroad transportation for shipment of the cattle.

Financial Institutions and City Economics

The economic development of Chickasha, as in any town, depended heavily on its financial institutions. Chickasha's first bank was the Gilmore, which opened with a borrowed capital of \$20,000. Interest rates of twenty-four to thirty-six percent were charged on loans. When a crisis in the affairs of the bank compelled a group of citizens to take over management, the name was changed to the Citizens Bank. This bank, under new management, began operating with an advantage over the old Gilmore. The new managers began with \$25,000 in capital.¹¹ The next bank to open its doors in Chickasha was the National Bank. In August of 1900 the National Bank had a capital structure of \$50,000. Its first board of directors included J. H. Tuttle, B. P. Smith,

¹⁰"Chickasha--Queen of Washita," p. 14.

¹¹Hill, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, p. 3.

William Inman, W. L. Sawyer, and J. C. Diggers.¹² Soon other banks began operations in Chickasha. By 1910 the number of financial institutions in Chickasha had expanded to five with a combined capital of well over \$550,000.¹³

The city was prospering economically. Chickasha's financial status can be seen in this partial business statement for the close of 1909:

Post Office Receipts	\$31,655
Population	10,309
School	2,634
Total Assessed Value	\$6,018,561
Bank Deposits	\$1,705,519
Value of Fire Equipment	\$12,600
Fire Loss	\$60,627
Bonded Indebtedness	\$450,000
Sinking Fund	\$16,606 ¹⁴

Transportation and Public Services

Transportation was a vital factor in the growth and development of a city's economy, and in this area Chickasha was especially fortunate. The city owed its birth to the railroad. In 1885 the United States government provided large land grants to be awarded to the first railroad to

¹²"Citizen's National Bank," booklet on file in Oklahoma Historical Society Library, pp. 4-10.

¹³Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 10.

¹⁴J. A. Rose, "Early History of Oklahoma" (Chickasha, Okla.: By the Author, 1919), p. 7.

complete a north-south line across Indian Territory. Three major lines competed for these grants: the Rock Island; the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas; and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe.¹⁵ The Rock Island reached Minco, a city twenty-five miles north of Chickasha, in 1887. Construction of a bridge across the Washita caused a delay, and the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas line thus won the grants by completing their line first.¹⁶ After overcoming the problem of bridge construction, the Rock Island continued building. Its route generally followed the old Chisholm Trail. Then in 1892 a decision was made that brought into existence the city of Chickasha, a result of the Rock Island line needing a passenger and freight division point. Several cities vied for the station, but none seemed entirely suitable. Finally the railroad officials chose the site where the city of Chickasha now stands. On April 2, 1892, an old boxcar was unloaded to serve as a temporary office for the Rock Island. This led to the settlement of Chickasha almost overnight.¹⁷ On April 22, 1892, the tracks were laid into Chickasha, and the line was completed across Indian Territory in 1893.¹⁸ The Rock Island aided Chickasha in a number of ways. Its selection of Chickasha as a passenger and freight division point

¹⁵Gibson, Oklahoma, p. 261.

¹⁶Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 11.

¹⁷Chickasha Daily Express, Sept. 8, 1937, p. 12.

¹⁸Gibson, Oklahoma, p. 287.

made the city an important trade and transportation center. Four passenger trains left Chickasha daily, and seventy-five carloads of freight were shipped out each month.¹⁹ As has already been noted, the farmers and ranchers greatly benefitted from the presence of the railroad. It provided them with more than adequate means of shipping the products to market. The Rock Island was also important to the city's economy in that it provided many jobs and a large payroll to the city residents. During the late 1890's and early 1900's, the monthly payroll to Chickasha employees averaged \$30,000.²⁰ J. E. Mathers served as chief dispatcher and T. H. Brents, A. C. Miller, and R. M. Wilson were assistant dispatchers.²¹

Facilities included a roundhouse, an eating house, a double depot, and a large freight house; there were also five miles of side track. The running of all trains and business with the dispatcher's offices between Fort Worth, Texas, and Caldwell, Kansas, was forwarded from Chickasha.²² In a few years other railroad lines moved into Chickasha to compete with the Rock Island line. In 1902 the Friaco completed their line to the city. A line from Chickasha to Ada was completed in 1907 by the Oklahoma Central Railroad (this was

¹⁹Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 6.

²⁰Walter G. McComas, "Metropolis of the Washita Valley," Strum's Oklahoma Magazine, IV (Dec., 1907), pp. 84-88.

²¹Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 7.

²²Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 13.

later controlled by the Santa Fe Railroad).²³

Local public transportation also was provided for Chickasha citizens. In July, 1910, the Chickasha Transportation Company began operating an electric streetcar complex. The system began by running only six cars, but the plant was equipped with sufficient power to pull twelve cars. Six miles of track encircled the city and provided reasonable transportation for local residents. This service continued until 1927.²⁴

Other public services made Chickasha a prosperous city. The city granted a franchise to the Chickasha Water, Light, and Telephone Company to provide a system of water works and electric lights. The company, whose president and vice president were M. B. Louthan and Leo Imboden respectively, had a capital of \$100,000. In addition to the services previously cited, the Chickasha Water, Light, and Telephone Company also was responsible for furnishing fire hydrants for the community.²⁵

Public services included artificial gas, piped into the city by the Chickasha Gas and Electric Company. The plant was powered by steam-driven turbines and by water power; the plant could supply both coal and water gas. A few years after the Gas and Electric Company began piping artificial

²³Chickasha Daily Express, July 14, 1957, pp. 1-4.

²⁴"Chickasha--Queen of the Washita," p. 16.

²⁵Business letter from the Chickasha Water, Light, and Telephone Company to the City of Chickasha (Nov. 6, 1901).

gas, several natural gas wells were developed within thirty miles of Chickasha.²⁶

Secondary Economic Concerns

While the aforementioned businesses were probably of greatest economic importance to Chickasha as a whole, a number of other concerns contributed greatly to the city's financial growth. Among these was a business that boasts of being Chickasha's oldest in the sense of continual operation, the Chickasha Greenhouse.²⁷ Only after Dr. Daniel Johnston located in what was to become the town of Chickasha to establish his professional practice did he send to Iowa for his wife and small daughter. As Mrs. Johnston left her home in Iowa, she brought with her some dearly loved plants. Once she got to Chickasha in 1892, her friends began to ask her for slips from some of her lovely plants so they also could grow them. She quickly acquired a reputation for beautiful flowers. Soon Mrs. Johnston began buying and selling plants and cut flowers, which were shipped from Kansas. Before the end of 1892, Mrs. Johnston had established the Chickasha Greenhouse just outside the Johnston home on South Fifth Street to supply flowers and add a touch of color and beauty to the drab young town.²⁸

²⁶Vaughn, "History of Chickasha," p. 11.

²⁷The business is still in operation today under the management of Dr. Johnston's granddaughter, Maude Dews.

²⁸Maude Dews, private interview held in Chickasha, May 10, 1971.

The Chickasha Ice and Cold Storage Company was financed by eighty-seven town citizens. In August, 1910, the company was incorporated. A fifty-ton plant was built at Sixth and Frisco, and operation began the following year, no doubt cooling many a beverage during the hot summers.²⁹

The city had several short-lived bakeries. Among the more profitable such endeavors was W. N. Claycomb's bakery, which he opened in the rear of his grocery store in 1894. By 1898 Claycomb's Bakery had closed shop, and two others were operating in Chickasha, one owned by Mrs. C. Freely and the other by L. D. Stone. It was not until nine years later, however, that a large-scale bakery began. In 1907 C. G. Hubbord opened his bakery in a two-room frame house. He made his bread by hand as he could not afford to invest in mechanical equipment. Even so, Hubbord turned out as many as 1,000 loaves of bread on some days.³⁰

As has been noted, Chickasha enjoyed a building boom in its early days. This, consequently, brought about a brick-making business. Bill Estes and A. J. Denton ran such a concern on the south side of Line Creek east of Second Street in 1896. They made building, or common bricks. Frank Baker operated a similar business three and one-half miles south of town. Both enjoyed profitable years and produced good quality bricks. Estes employed thirty men

²⁹Chickasha (Dec., 1930), pp. 5-6.

³⁰Ibid. (June, 1931), p. 7.

during peak demand and had trouble meeting local needs for his bricks.³¹

All types of businesses flourished in Chickasha. Goods and services of all kinds were available and businessmen, generally speaking, enjoyed prosperity during the early days of the community. As a result Chickasha had practically every advantage imaginable for prosperity--excellent climate,³² fertile soil, abundant water supply, and better than adequate transportation facilities. Prosperity was only natural.

³¹Chickasha Daily Express, May 3, 1902, p. 4.

³²The climatic conditions of Chickasha were reported in "Industrial Survey of Chickasha, Oklahoma," a booklet prepared by the Chamber of Commerce in 1935, on file at Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, Section 3, p. 1. The mean annual average temperature is 62.2 degrees; the average annual precipitation is 31.18 inches; the sun shines approximately 90 percent of the days each year; and the average humidity is approximately 55 percent.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

Chickasha, Oklahoma, has a rich heritage and a colorful past. This community has made unlimited contributions to the improvement of the state of Oklahoma and to the nation as a whole. Although many problems existed from the very beginning, the city fathers through dedication, sacrifice, and wise use of available resources succeeded in accomplishing their high goals for building a well-rounded city.

In its beginning the region around Chickasha was a desolate area inhabited only by scattered bands of Indians. The days of the big cattle drives saw the area's importance increase, and civilization began to invade the undisturbed prairie. Finally the railroad brought into existence the tent city called Chickasha. Problem after problem faced the young town, but it continued to progress despite the adversities. Churches, schools, newspapers, and a library added culture to the raw city of the prairie. The railroad brought in new inventions, new people, and new ideas from all over the United States. Simultaneously the railroad exported Chickasha's products to the demanding outside world. Prosperity was on every hand. The farmer and rancher enjoyed the good climate, the rich soil, and the good water supply.

The businessman enjoyed a prosperous market for his goods and services. City and county governments, district court, and statehood brought law and order and thus protection for the citizens.

Chickasha, Oklahoma, truly has made a vital social, economic, and political contribution to the state and the nation. The more than 15,000 people who now claim Chickasha as their home have ample reason to be extremely proud of their fine city.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Primary Sources

A. Personal Interviews:

Bailey, Mary. Held in Chickasha, May 7, 1971. Miss Bailey is the daughter of the noted Chickasha District Judge, Frank M. Bailey.

Beeler, George, Jr. Held in Chickasha, February 26, 1971. Mr. Beeler's father, George Beeler, Sr., was the first known white settler in Chickasha.

Cowan, Chester. Held in Chickasha, February 26, 1971. Mr. Cowan came to Chickasha in 1899. He was engaged as a building contractor, having built the present day City Hall, as well as several other buildings in Chickasha.

Dews, Maude. Held in Chickasha, May 10, 1971. Miss Dews, owner of the Chickasha Greenhouse, is the granddaughter of pioneer Chickasha doctor, Daniel M. Johnston.

Evans, Hazel. Held in Chickasha, May 17, 1971. Mrs. Evans' husband, George, was the owner and publisher of the Chickasha Daily Express for approximately 50 years.

Munn, Irvin. Held in Chickasha, October 17, 1970. Mr. Munn, a Chickasha businessman, has done extensive research on the history of the city.

Phillips, Mrs. Harry. Held in Chickasha, March 2, 1971. Mrs. Phillips came to Chickasha at the turn of the century. Her father was an early day real estate agent.

Williams, M. R. Held in Chickasha, February 19, 1971. Dr. Williams, a dentist, is the son of Chickasha's first dentist.

B. Published Material

Abstract of the Twelfth Census, 1900. United States Bureau of Census. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1904.

B. Published Material, continued.

College Catalog. Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls, 1909-1910. Oklahoma City: Warden-Enbright Company, 1909.

C. Unpublished Materials

Church Records. Church of Christ.

Church Records. Epworth United Methodist Church.

Church Records. First Assembly of God Church.

Church Records. First Christian Church.

Church Records. First Lutheran Church.

Church Records. Holy Name Catholic Church.

City Charter. Filed in permanent records, office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of January 4, 1900.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of February 19, 1900.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of March 6, 1900.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of October 29, 1900.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of December 28, 1900.

City Council Meeting. Minutes from meeting of February 5, 1903.

Johnston, Daniel M. "Autobiography of Daniel M. Johnston." This autobiography is now the property of Dr. Johnston's granddaughters, Maude and Dana Dews, both of Chickasha.

Letter (business). From Chickasha Water, Light, and Telephone Company to the city of Chickasha, November 6, 1901.

Original handkerchief. Printed handkerchief distributed by Chickasha citizens to support single statehood. Filed in Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts.

Plat. Survey of Indian Territory, April 29, 1901. Filed in Plat Book No. 1 in Grady County Courthouse.

II. Secondary Sources

A. Books

Corden, Seth, and Richards, W. B., compilers. Oklahoma Red Book. 2 Volumes. Oklahoma City: Democrat Publishing Company, 1912.

Dale, Edward Everett, and Wardell, Morris. History of Oklahoma. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Incorporated, 1964.

Foreman, Carolyn Thomas. Oklahoma Imprints, 1835-1907. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936.

Gibson, A. M. Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries. Norman: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1965.

Gideon, D. C. History of Indian Territory, I. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1901.

McReynolds, Edwin C. Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964.

B. Pamphlets, Brochures, Articles

"Chickasha." Prepared by Chickasha Chamber of Commerce. On file in City Clerk's office, City Hall.

"Chickasha--Queen of the Washita." Prepared by the Chickasha Chamber of Commerce. On file at Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts.

Citizen's Bank. Booklet on file in Oklahoma Historical Society Library.

Hill, Keppel W. A History of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Chickasha: By the author, 1931.

Industrial Survey of Chickasha, Oklahoma. Booklet prepared by Chamber of Commerce, 1935. On file in Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts.

Jennings, A. Owen. Merchants and Manufacturers Records of Indian Territory. Springfield, Illinois, 1905.

Lewis, Anna. "Grady County." Published in Chickasha Daily Express, September 8, 1937.

McComas, Walter C. "Metropolis of the Washita Valley." Strum's Oklahoma Magazine, December, 1907, IV, 84-88.

B. Pamphlets, Brochures, Articles, continued.

Oklahoma Library Commission. Oklahoma Libraries, 1900-1937. 1937.

Rose, J. A. Early History of Oklahoma. Chickasha: By the author, 1919.

Shirk, George H. "First Post Offices Within the Boundaries of Oklahoma." Chronicles of Oklahoma, Summer, 1948, XXVI, 214-228.

"What Chickasha Industries Are Doing." Chickasha. A monthly publication of Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, II, May, 1931, 56-59.

"What Chickasha Industries Are Doing." Chickasha. A monthly publication of Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, II, June, 1931, 5-8.

C. Newspapers

Chickasha Express. August 29, 1895.

Chickasha Express. November 17, 1898.

Chickasha Express. November 24, 1898.

Chickasha Daily Express. May 3, 1902.

Chickasha Daily Express. September 8, 1937.

Chickasha Daily Express. November 1, 1942.

Chickasha Daily Express. July 14, 1957.

Chickasha Daily Express. January 27, 1969.

Chickasha Daily Express. January 26, 1969.

Chickasha Daily Express. February 3, 1970.

Chickasha Evening Telegram. April 14, 1900.

Chickasha Evening Telegram. April 7, 1902.

Chickasha Evening Telegram. April 9, 1902.

Trend. Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts student newspaper. October 21, 1966.

D. Unpublished Secondary Sources

- Alexander, Robert. "A Study in the Community Problems of Chickasha, Oklahoma." Unpublished M.S. thesis. University of Oklahoma, 1932.
- Bailey, Mary. "History of Grady County." Unpublished M.S. thesis. University of Oklahoma, 1937.
- Bell, Mary. "I Remember." History of Oklahoma College for Women. On file in Archives, Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, 1948 (typescript).
- Lewis, Anna. "History of Oklahoma College for Women." On file in Archives, Nash Library, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts, 1943 (typescript).
- "Shannon Springs Jail." Article on file in Oklahoma Historical Society Library (typescript).
- Thomas, Linda. "George R. Beeler, Indian Territory Pioneer." High school research paper.
- Vaughn, Owen. "A History of Chickasha." Paper presented to Chamber of Commerce. On file in office of City Treasurer, City Hall, Chickasha, Oklahoma (typescript).
- Walker, Patricia A. "Histories of Chickasha Express, Grady County Star, and Chickasha Democrat." Research paper, University of Oklahoma, January 20, 1958.
- Weedman. Untitled article concerning history of Chickasha. On file in Oklahoma Historical Society Library. Sponsored by Writers' Program, WPA, 1937.

APPENDIX A

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTED CHICKASHA CITIZENS

Judge Frank M. Bailey

Frank M. Bailey was born on September 27, 1876, in Winona, Mississippi. He graduated from Clinton and Millsap College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He settled in Chickasha in 1901, nine years after the town began. From the time he moved into town, he began to promote religious, educational, civic, and commercial betterment in Chickasha.

The public educational institutions in Chickasha faced critical periods as they struggled for sufficient financial and managerial means to provide suitable educational facilities for area youngsters. It was during these early years of the city's public education that Bailey served for ten years on the Board of Education in Chickasha. Many of these years he served as president of the School Board.

During the campaign for statehood Judge Bailey was one of the leaders in the Chickasha area who promoted single statehood, covering Indian Territory by horseback, on foot, or any other way he could travel to address gatherings on behalf of single statehood. In 1907 he was District Judge of Chickasha, a post which he held until 1915. In 1917 he

was elected president of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Following this, Judge Bailey served as a Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1919 and 1920. Also in 1919 Judge Bailey was a member of the Board of Regents of Oklahoma College for Women. Immediately after retiring from the Oklahoma Supreme Court, he formed a law partnership with Harry Hammerly, a firm called "Bailey and Hammerly, Attorneys-at-Law." The Bailey and Hammerly law firm was still in operation at the time of Judge Bailey's death in 1958. Again in 1930 he was awarded the position of president of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Judge Bailey was the first man to serve as president of the Oklahoma Bar Association for two terms.

The business interests in Chickasha called on Judge Bailey to serve on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce in 1918; he held this position for ten years. During 1922 and 1923 he served as president of the Chamber of Commerce. Even in those years when Judge Bailey did not serve on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the chairmanship of several special committies was his lot.

Judge Bailey was a member of the Epworth Methodist Church in Chickasha. He taught the men's Bible class for over nine years and was a member, and often the chairman, of the Board of Stewards for many years. He was also involved in many civic organizations. When the Kiwanis International realized the calibre of Judge Bailey, he was named governor of the Texas-Oklahoma District. As in other areas, he was a

good leader with productive results. A high point in Judge Bailey's life was in 1933 when he was given the certificate of Distinguished Service to the State of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Memorial Association. Judge Bailey was also listed in Who's Who in America.

In 1930, then state senator Frank M. Bailey announced himself a Democratic candidate for governor of Oklahoma. Although he had home support, Senator Bailey failed to carry enough votes to be elected to the governorship of Oklahoma. From 1930 until his death in 1958, Judge Bailey was very busy in his law firm. He found time, however, to serve on the Chickasha council of Boy Scouts of America, to work in the local Kiwanis Club, and with the Masons (he was a 32nd degree Mason). He also was a member of the Board of Trustees of Oklahoma City University and of Southern Methodist University during these years. Judge Frank M. Bailey died on November 9, 1958 in Chickasha, Oklahoma.¹

¹This biography was compiled from information gained in a personal interview with Judge Bailey's daughter, Mary H. Bailey, held in Chickasha on May 7, 1971; from an article in "Judge Bailey Recognized as Community Builder and Leader," Chickasha, a monthly publication of Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, I (March, 1930), pp. 3-8; and from the Chickasha Daily Express, Nov. 10, 1958, p. 1.

George R. Beeler, Sr.

The first known non-Indian settler in what was to become Chickasha, Oklahoma, was George R. Beeler. Born at Rockport, Missouri, in 1854, Beeler was educated at Highland, Kansas. In 1879 he came to the Indian Territory, settling near Fort Arbuckle in the area of present day Ardmore. There he engaged in the cattle business. Two years later he married Mary Grant, who bore him three children. In 1881 they moved farther west and operated a ranch at the present site of Chickasha. His ranch house stood at what is now the intersection of Choctaw Avenue and Seventh Street. Beeler amassed large cattle holdings there, totaling some \$60,000.

In 1886 Beeler moved to the old Moncrief place near the present site of Ninnekah, south of Chickasha. There he built one of the largest ranches in that section of the country. The 1,400 acres was bounded on the south by Agwam, on the west by Norge, on the east by a line two miles east of Ninnekah, and on the north by the present day State Highway 19. The Chisholm Trail ran just east of the ranch.

After his wife died in 1888, Beeler sold his ranching interests and moved to Purcell. He participated in the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889 and also established the Bank of Purcell. While in Purcell he married Georgia Collins. Four children were born to this union.

In 1892 Beeler returned to Ninnekah and built a new home for his wife and family. Assisted by Percy Smith, Beeler surveyed the townsite of Ninnekah (the town was named by Mrs.

Beeler, the town's first postmaster; she chose the name, which means "dark," from a list sent to her by the United States Government). Beeler had several business interests in the town, and he took a prominent role in the civic, social, and religious activities. Beeler was one of the Chickasaw delegates to the Sequoyah Convention (he had become a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation by his marriage to his second wife, who was one-eighth Chickasaw).

In 1910 Beeler established an automobile dealership in Chickasha. He was instrumental in the organization of the Christian Church in Chickasha, as well as the Grady County Pioneer Club and other civic functions. Failing health forced his retirement in 1926. He died on June 15, 1939. George Beeler, Sr., Grady County pioneer, has recently been enshrined in the Cowboy Hall of Fame and in the Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City.²

²This biography was compiled from information obtained during several personal interviews with George Beeler, Jr.; from correspondence with Mrs. Julia Beeler Smith; and from an unpublished report by Linda Thomas, "George R. Beeler, Indian Territory Pioneer."

George Evans

The Chickasha Express definitely played an important role in the early development of Chickasha. The man most responsible for the success of this paper was George Evans. Born in 1873 at Warrensburg, Missouri, he attended the public schools in his home town and at Missouri State University. He also attended Harvard University. He worked at a number of jobs, including publisher of the Jeffersonian of Norborne, Missouri. He also taught school for a short time.

Two of his brothers had moved to the newly opened lands of Indian Territory and settled in Enid. Young George came to Enid himself around the turn of the century. While he was employed in an Enid shoestore, he read an advertisement in the Kansas City Star offering for sale a newspaper in a rapidly growing city in Indian Territory. He went to the bank and borrowed \$1,500 to purchase the Chickasha Express. On November 2, 1903, Evans assumed ownership and editorship of the paper, a position he would hold for more than fifty years. The paper's circulation was approximately 400 at the time Evans purchased the paper. Times were hard for the young editor; he worked for three years without paying a dime either on his debt or his interest.

In a few years he added two partners. One was Bryce Smith, who ran the business operations of the paper, while Evans did the bulk of the newspaper work. The second partner Evans added in those early years was Smith's daughter, Hazel,

who became Evans' wife on June 28, 1911. Finally, Dave Vandiver became a business partner in 1934.

The paper made remarkable progress, and Evans used it as an instrument to promote the city's growth. Through the newspaper and a personal appearance in Washington, D. C., he pushed for single statehood and the naming of Chickasha as county seat and as a federal district court location. Bond issues and other improvements were always strongly supported in Evans' editorials. Numerous organizations received Evans' support, among them were the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club. Evans was president of the Oklahoma Press Association, a member of the Chickasha Board of Education, an active member of the Methodist Church, and on the Board of Directors of the Chickasha Federal Savings and Loan Association. In 1952 George Evans suffered a stroke and thereafter remained bedfast until his death on January 7, 1954.³

³Information was obtained from Mrs. George Evans in an interview held in Chickasha, May 21, 1971.

Dr. Daniel M. Johnston

Daniel Matthewson Johnston was born in Mount Vernon, Cedar County, Iowa in 1856. His parents, George Johnston and Chastine Matthewson Heywood, were living in a two-room cabin on an eighty-acre farm then. When Mrs. Johnston died of childbed fever in 1861, Daniel's fourteen-year-old sister was left to run the household for the family of seven, including a tiny baby. In 1867 the family moved west to Kellogg, Jasper County, Iowa, at the end of the Rock Island line. Here Johnston married a widow who already had three children; two more children were born to this union.

By this time young Daniel had decided on a career in medicine. He was disenchanted with his schooling at Hazel Dell Academy at Newton, Iowa, describing his educational experience as "learning a lot of unimportant stuff that was not practical." Acting on the advice of the family doctor, Dr. Engle, Johnston quit the Academy and went to work in order to save his money to attend the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In the fall of 1877 Johnston and Dr. Engle's younger brother enrolled in the University's medical school. A shortage of funds ended his stint at Ann Arbor, however, and Johnston returned to Iowa. In a short time he married Stella Rees, a former classmate. He then enrolled in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, where he was licensed to practice medicine and surgery, as well as receiving a certificate of pharmacy in the spring of 1878.

In the fall of 1878 he began his practice in Iowa Center, Iowa, at the age of twenty-two. Realizing his inexperience, young Dr. Johnston devised a unique philosophy concerning his practice:

I was too young and green for people to have much confidence in me, but I had enough common sense to know that most cases of simple sickness, if left to Nature, would soon recover. So I conceived the idea that if I didn't kill my patients with medicine or starve them to death, Nature was my best friend. Following this rule, I did not start much of a cemetery in that town and had a good practice.

But young Dr. Johnston was dissatisfied with the cold Iowa winters and decided to seek his fortune in a warmer climate. Thus he came to Purcell, Indian Territory, where his brother was living. The rumors of opening the Indian domain to white settlement lured Dr. Johnston to the area. Although he did not take part in the run of 1889, he watched the proceedings from atop a high hill (as a doctor, he felt he had no need for a farm). Later he set up his practice in Pensee, a small village north of Chickasha. As was common in those days for doctors, Dr. Johnston yielded his services throughout the area. When the Rock Island Railroad selected the site of present day Chickasha as its headquarters in the area, Dr. Johnston moved his two-room office building to the new town. He offered not only medical but also dental services to the new town's citizens. (Dr. T. H. Williams, a dentist, arrived shortly afterwards and shared an office with Dr. Johnston.)

Dr. Johnston remained in the Chickasha area for the

remainder of his life. He was appointed by the first Town Council as a member of the Board of Health to help bring a smallpox epidemic under control. He, along with a number of other doctors, provided Chickasha area residents with better than adequate medical care. Dr. Daniel Matthewson Johnston died in 1948 and is buried in Chickasha's Rose Hill Cemetery.⁴

⁴Daniel M. Johnston, "Autobiography of Daniel Matthewson Johnston," (unpub.). This autobiography is the property of Dr. Johnston's granddaughters, Dana and Maude Dews of Chickasha.

APPENDIX B

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

History of Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts from 1910-1971

The newly organized college faced numerous hardships in its early existence. Holding the first term of school in the local high school building proved to be inconvenient; consequently, the following year, 1910, classes were held in a Baptist church and in an adjoining flat. In 1911 the Administration Building was completed; this lone building composed the college, serving as classroom building, administration building, laboratory, library, and dormitory. As more students from other areas began enrolling, the necessity for separate and complete dormitory facilities increased. In 1913 the Oklahoma Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for construction of the first dormitory, which was named Nellie Sparks Hall. It was opened in 1914. The first degrees were granted in 1915; only two students had met the requirements for graduation: Ruby John Canning and Emma Estill (Harbor). The fact that the college had granted degrees gave encouragement to the other students.

A uniform dress code was enforced for all the girls in the name of democracy: "The richest girl cannot be separated from the poorest by her dress." The uniform dress code

was abolished in the mid 1920's. The following estimate of expenses appeared in the 1910-1911 college catalog:

Matriculation and Medical Fees	\$ 5.00
Books and Stationery	10.00
Uniform Suit, All Wool Navy Blue Storm Serge, Tailored	17.00
Extra Skirt, Storm Serge	3.98
Oxford Cap with Embroidered Letters . . .	2.75
Board and Room in Dormitory (month) . . .	10.00
Board and Room in Cottage Homes (month) .	15.00
China Silk Waist	2.75
Percale Waist	1.00

Tuition was free in every department, but students did pay for materials used in the industrial departments.

As was customary on any campus, students quickly began organizing various clubs and other social groups. The Student Government was organized in the fall of 1916, and the following year the school's first social club, Em Hi, was founded by Anna Kate Gilbert. The same year saw publication of the first Argus, the school yearbook. In 1919 a student newspaper, The Trend, made its appearance on campus, with Opal Dolan as the first editor.

The school continued to grow and progress as other buildings were added to the growing campus. The President's Home, as well as Francis E. Willard Hall, a dormitory, was completed in 1920. The new Fine Arts building also opened that year. The new Home Economics and Science building was finished in 1924, followed by the completion of the Physical Education Building, Senior Hall, and an infirmary all in 1928. Other buildings were built over the years, and in 1948 construction began on a much needed library; Nash Library was opened in 1950. A Student Union Building opened in 1948.

A number of noted personalities from various walks of life have appeared on programs presented on the campus. The citizens of Chickasha have been privileged to see and hear such people as Will Rogers, William Jennings Bryan, Sister Elizabeth Kenney, Carl Sandburg, Will Durant, Drew Pearson, Charles Laughton, William Howard Taft, Francis Perkins, and other noteworthy people who have presented college programs.

Due to an increased demand for a coeducational institution of higher learning in the Chickasha area, Oklahoma College for Women became Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts by an act of the state legislature on July 7, 1965. The change not only brought in new students but also a new curriculum. OCLA offers the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in some twenty-two areas today.

The men serving as President of OCW and OCLA are:

1909-1911 H. B. Abernathy

1911-1912 James Alexander Abernathy

1912-1914 J. B. Eskridge

1914-1926 G. W. Austin

1926-1943 M. A. Nash

1943-1958 C. Dan Proctor

1958-1961 Freeman Beets

1961-1968 Charles Grady

1968- Robert L. Martin¹

¹Material concerning the history of OCLA was obtained from three research papers on file in Nash Library. (1) "I Remember," by Mary Bell, a former faculty member; (2) "A History of OCLA, 1908-1970," by Van Bielstein, a 1970 graduate of OCLA; (3) "History of OCW," by Anna Lewis, also a former faculty member. Two college catalogs also were used.

Jane Brooks School

In 1927 Margaret Brooks opened a school in Purcell, Oklahoma, for children with speech and hearing defects. Her first class was composed of only six students, three boys and three girls. Mrs. Brooks named her school after her daughter, Jane, who had suffered hearing defects since childhood. Mrs. Brooks had received training in speech and hearing therapy at Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis.

In 1945 the school was moved to Chickasha, where it was connected with Oklahoma College for Women. Mrs. Brooks' dream was to create a "living laboratory" for students interested in speech and hearing therapy. This area has become a popular area of study for many students of the Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts. The students work closely with the Jane Brooks School, thereby gaining practical experience that will be useful in careers in helping children who possess these handicaps.

In 1968 the school leased the old St. Joseph's Academy building from the Holy Name Catholic Church for a nominal fee. This provided classrooms, offices, and dormitory facilities. The old Chickasha Hospital on Choctaw Avenue also helped to fill the needs of dormitory facilities. Robert J. (Andy) Anderson presently serves as president, and Mrs. Jane Harris serves as director of the school.²

²Information taken from the Trend, Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts' student newspaper, Oct. 21, 1966; and from the Chickasha Daily Express, Jan. 26, 1969, p. 1-A.

APPENDIX C

LIST OF BUSINESSES IN CHICKASHA IN 1898

Dry Goods and Clothing Stores

Mosbacker and Raas
Welsh Brothers
Mays and Cunningham
J. P. England
Brown Brothers

Hardware Stores

Gilky Brothers
J. A. Rose
Hall and Stone
Mata R. Dent

Drug Stores

Brown and Company
Proctor and Beavers
James Pettyjohn
Earl Horward

Jewelry Stores

J. C. Eisfelder
E. A. Poe

Lumber Yards

A. B. Snow and Company
William Cameron and Company

Second Hand Store

J. Wherle

Dry Goods and Grocery Stores

A. S. Daniels and Company
Bourland and Cochran

Grocery Stores

R. N. Murphey
W. W. Horne
L. D. Stone
Hollingsworth Brothers
Thacker and Son
E. T. Watson
W. L. Sawyers
H. Scheusler
D. P. Hawkins
J. C. Hopkins and Company

Racket Stores

Goff and Ricker
Klondike and Sam Rogers

Saddle and Harness Shops

Hall and Stone
J. A. Dodson
Cross and Cheany

Saloons

Hugh Gerah
Pete Heffner
Steve Hatsell
Barringer and Lockoby
McKay and Son

Cigar Factory

J. W. Scofield

Milliners

Mrs. G. B. Riley
 Miss Nellie Doyle
 Mrs. V. N. Sayer
 Miss Lizzie Copeland

Furniture Stores

Claycomb and Son
 Pimm and Charleville

Hotels

Grand Avenue, Booten and Turner
 Leland, W. T. Lancaster
 Midland
 Robinson House (Lodging)

Restaurants

Globe, W. T. Hatsell
 Alamo, W. A. Stewart
 Arcade, W. L. McMamas
 Fred and Charlie's Chop House
 Commercial, A. A. Biggs
 Star
 Pettfil's Fish and Oysters
 Business Men's, Tom Minter

Mill

Tait Milling Company

Elevators

Tait Milling Company
 Graves Elevator

Cotton Gin

J. S. Mayfield

Bakeries

Mrs. C. Freely
 L. D. Stone

Feed and Ice Stores

D. H. Bullard
 Hill and Savage Feed

Photographers

Mrs. Westbrook
 Irvin and Mankins

Marble Works

W. A. Stewart

Meat Market

M. Hansell and Company

Bottling Works and Ice Cream

H. T. Hatton

Architects and Engineers

D. P. Smith

Livery Stables

Red Barn, Frank Plato
 Western Livery, Frank Hodge
 Star, Lockoby and Petty
 Oklahoma Stable, Matt
 Chilton

Blacksmith Shops

Darnell and Heiman
 Henry Denny
 Will Booth
 T. T. Morrow

Drays and Express

Arthur Pettyjohn
 W. H. Riley
 J. W. Hoover
 M. M. Hoover
 John Tryon
 George Neely
 George Baker

Tin Shop

George Boston

Coal

A. B. Snow and Company
 D. H. Bullard

Laundries

J. E. Williams
 Loo Sam

Sewing Machine Salesman

F. M. Denton

Livestock Commission

G. W. Barefoot
 Mitchel and Tuttle

Newspapers

Chickasha Express
Gazette Record
Ranchmen

Brick Yard

A. J. Denton

Shoemakers

George Coen

Wagon Yards

Washita
 Farmers, Petty, and Lockoby
 Oklahoma, Chilton, Hodge,
 and Stewart

Tailors

A. E. Kuhn

Barbers

John Neville
 Grant Ogan
 Mrs. C. Freely, C. Pierson,
 Manager
 Joe Hooker

Banks

Citizens Bank
 Bank of Chickasha¹

¹Chickasha Express, Nov. 17, 1898, p. 7.

VITA

Tommy Wayne Stringer

Candidate for the Degree of
Master of Arts

Thesis: THE FOUNDING AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CHICKASHA,
OKLAHOMA

Major Field: History

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Marshall, Texas, December 13,
1944, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James I. Stringer.

Education: Graduated from Carthage High School,
Carthage, Texas, in May, 1963; graduated from
Panola Junior College, Carthage, Texas, in
May, 1965; received a Bachelor of Arts degree
from Oklahoma Christian College in June, 1967,
with a major in history and minors in English
and education; completed requirements for a
Master of Arts degree from Oklahoma State
University in July, 1971, with a major in
history.

Professional Experience: Classroom teacher in Rush
Springs Public School system, Rush Springs,
Oklahoma, from 1967 through 1971.