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THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

1893 - 1943

A THESIS

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

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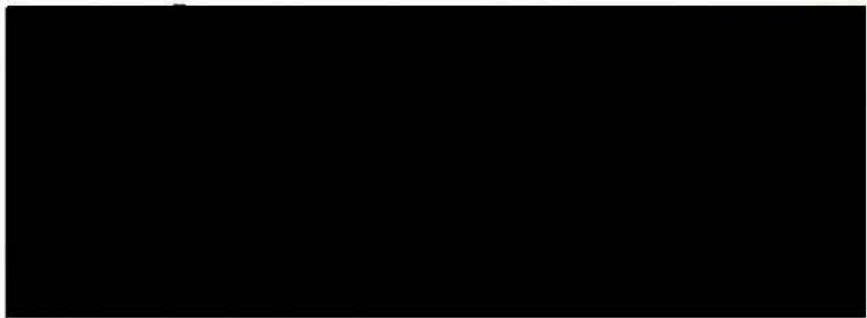
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PREFACE

The purpose of this study is not merely to tell the basic story of the first half-century of the Oklahoma Historical Society, but to convey its unique life and flavor. I endeavor to present a detailed history of the development, character, and growth of the organization. First and foremost of all intentions, this is to be a discussion of the human experience in the life of the institution.

Rather than focusing on numerous statistics or institutional mechanics, this thesis examines the human dynamics of those early years of existence. The interests and abilities of the founders, officers, employees and early historians shaped the character of the Historical Society and promoted its growth through occasional periods of difficulty. Their successes as well as their mistakes will be explained.

Oklahoma's historical institution was unique among other state historical associations because it was established fourteen years before statehood. In that regard, the infant organization was in the enviable position of collecting newspapers, documents, artifacts and information concerning territorial and state development as it happened.

The Society had to gather material from the past but could chronicle formative, current events before they were history. That clearly reflected the determination of the founders to encourage an appreciation of the past, therefore preserving Oklahoma's heritage.

This presentation begins in Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory in May 1893, and runs the course of five decades, ending in 1943, during World War II. As one generation of influence passed another took its place, therefore dominant personalities emerged to leave a lasting impression throughout the organizational life cycle. That is why the human factor has been so vital. Such men as William P. Campbell, Jasper Sipes, Robert L. Williams and Joseph Thoburn had a major influence. Women were also involved in the life of the Historical Society, with Emma Estill-Harbour and Muriel Wright leaving lasting impressions as well.

In the first chapter, the stage will be set. A historical association is a unique, almost contradictory combination of preserving the past while trying to grow for the future. I have tried to recreate a sense of what was occurring in 1893 by presenting a broad picture to clarify a specific segment. Briefly, I have discussed a concept (the Turner Thesis) that was to become a revolutionary idea in the study of history, and what was happening nationally to historical societies in America. In my discussion on the heritage of Oklahoma, two frontiers (the Indian and Anglo

frontiers) and four historical phases have been mentioned to provide a manageable context regarding the historiography of Oklahoma.

The second chapter opens with a brief history of early territorial newspapers and the development of rival press associations. It continues with the founding of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1893, then chronicles the years at Kingfisher and Norman. The material covers the life of one organization, then two, and finally, one again. Initial trial and error approach adds spice to that portion and the determinations of W. P. Campbell and the other early leaders are its solid stock. Though the greatest period of growth was still ahead, those years were crucial to the survival of the young organization. These were the foundation years.

Chapter three covers the first move to Oklahoma City, with the years spent in the Carnegie Library, then the period in the basement of the State Capitol. Those years were significant because of the various individuals who became associated with the Society and the institutional changes which took place. It was also an important period in publication venture because of the development of Historia in 1909, and more significantly, the Chronicles of Oklahoma in 1921. The Carnegie years brought stability in leadership, while the Capitol years produced a combination of growth and problems.

In chapter four, I discuss the evolution of the Chronicles and how it differed from the earlier publications,

Mistletoe Leaves and Historia. To cover the scope of each publication, mention is made of their development and the contents of each. The material on the Chronicles covers the early financial and individual difficulties which took place. With the eventual success of the Chronicles, gifted historians had a medium to communicate their research, through articles on the history of Oklahoma and its many aspects.

The final chapter is vital to the scope of this study because of the growth of the institution and its movement into a permanent home--the Temple of History. That period, from 1930 to 1943, was one which witnessed a number of major accomplishments, including the transfer of tribal records and the projects of the W.P.A. Power struggle, professional jealousy, and personality conflicts caused the removal of one of the society's most valuable leaders and the magnitude of that long feud is discussed. On the whole, the years spent in the new Historical Building were characterized by major accomplishments.

Throughout the contents of this work, significant individuals are introduced, then their association with the society is blended into the developments that take place. Whether on the board level or employee level, their contributions to the life of the institution are discussed. The four early historians, Joseph Thoburn, Edward Everett Dale, Grant Foreman, and Muriel Wright, are discussed because of their relationship with the Society and their accomplishments

in books and articles. William P. Campbell is mentioned throughout this work because of his role as founder of the Historical Society.

Discussion of the efforts of the Society to preserve the records of Oklahoma's remarkable history, coupled with the tremendous influence of various individuals constitute the essence of the fifty-year study. What the founders envisioned in the beginning and how those expectations actually turned out will materialize as the work progresses. The successes as well as the failures receive attention. In actuality, the Society is telling its own story, through the many pages of manuscripts, newspapers, organizational magazines, the Chronicles and other sources, which will serve to magnify the institution.

Grateful acknowledgement is extended to the following individuals who have directly or indirectly helped me in the completion of the work. Appreciation is offered to Elmer Fraker, who took the time to visit with me via two long distance telephone interviews. Always kind and informative, Mr. Fraker helped shed new light on matters regarding the society and especially on his personal friendship with the late Joseph Thoburn. A word of thanks is also given to Mrs. Alice Everett and Mrs. Edna Bowman for their helpful suggestions. I would also like to express appreciation to Ms. Vickie Williams for her many hours in typing the final product.

A special word of appreciation is extended to the members of my master's committee at the University of Oklahoma--Dr. Arrell M. Gibson, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of History; Dr. Paul F. Sharp, President Emeritus and Regents Professor of History; and Dr. John S. Ezell, David Ross Boyd Professor of History. Their patience and encouragement guided my progress throughout the course of this project and without their suggestions and support, this task might never have been achieved.

Special gratitude is offered to Dr. Gibson, who directed this work. He suggested that I deliver a paper on this topic before the members of the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians, which proved to be a tremendous confidence-builder for me. His insistence on high standards in research and writing has been an inspiration in the accomplishment of this goal. Always patient, he examined the contents of this work from beginning to end.

I extend my gratitude to Jack Haley and John Caldwell from the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma. Their suggestions opened new channels in my research. The papers from the M. L. Wardell, Sidney Clarke, C. Ross Hume, and Edward Everett Dale Collections are vital ingredients in this paper.

From the Oklahoma Historical Society, I wish to thank the staff members from the Museums and Sites Division, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Newspaper Department and

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For my family, who always believed in me and offered constant encouragement. From them, I have received a special appreciation for my Indian and Western heritage. They instilled within me, the drive that kept me going and that special family bond has been an inspiration for my efforts.

Above all, I wish to thank my wife, Becky and sons, Kris and Brent, for always supporting me. Becky diligently typed the rough draft and stood by me throughout the span of this work. Their love and encouragement was always there. Without them, this thesis could not have been completed.

F.S.S.

Norman, Oklahoma

THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

1893 - 1943

CHAPTER I

EIGHTEEN NINETY-THREE

In the spring of 1893, perhaps the last place most people envisioned the establishment of a historical society was the territorial region of the central United States known as the Twin Territories (Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory). If however, there is such a thing as the right moment for the birth of such an institution then the future state of Oklahoma possessed very good timing. Not only the region, but the nation itself was experiencing a period of excitement, with deep pride in the past, rapid change for the present and tremendous hopes for the future.

The last decade of the Nineteen-century saw the Union nearly complete in its continental jigsaw of states, leaving only a few territories without statehood status. Only the Twin Territories, together with those of Arizona, New Mexico and Alaska remained without statehood status. The old nationalistic impulse, fondly referred to as Manifest Destiny, to spread American influence from ocean to ocean and advance

freedom within these borders was nearly realized.¹ A new vision of expansion beyond those limits, coupled with flirtations toward world power status, was forming in the minds of many. This new nationalism was filled with great dreams and powered by steep change which Americans easily equated to their own traditions. They therefore turned to the past to give justification for the future.

Americans never tired of hearing stories concerning the frontier advancement. Pioneers had gone beyond the natural barriers, braved the elements and fought the Indian in his domain to stake the claim for democracy. This vision was branded into the very heart and soul of national pride and destiny. As everyone learned, the vast territories of the United States had been secured because of American expansion toward the unknown and the dangers on the westward horizon.

In 1893 Andrew Carnegie wrote, "the old nations of the earth creep at a snails pace; the Republic thunders past with the rush of an express."² Many viewed American progress in this light, and during this period, they felt the time right for spreading American influence beyond the established borders to other new areas within the hemisphere. With economic considerations accompanying rapid industrialization, uncertainty of our defense in case of outside penetration from Europe, sense of Christian duty and the basic desire to spread democracy, the time seemed right to venture out.

Cuba, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and regions of Central and South America came under this nation's watchful eye. With those considerations, the manifest push of the past was adjusted to meet the new schemes for the days ahead.

The Nation's Centennial was less than two decades past with the renewed pride and patriotism of that event still fresh to many. It was gratifying to reflect upon all which had been accomplished within the period of a single century. Simply put, the nation was caught up with itself and the same drive which affected the country as a whole was occurring within the borders of states and territories on a smaller scale. In each region people were aware of their special contributions to the development of the United States.

To accompany this renewed regional pride, the study of history was undergoing a change. Perhaps the single greatest impact on historiography in this nation, certainly on the West, occurred in the summer of 1893. In that year, a paper titled "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" was delivered before members of the American Historical Association at Chicago by Frederick Jackson Turner. Turner declared, "the existence of an area of free land, its continuous recession, and advance of American settlement westward, explained American development." The frontier he spoke of was "the outer edge of the wave--the meeting point between savagery and civilization."³

The Turner thesis gave new expression to the perception of the westward advance and shifted the focus of the significance of American history and development from European origins along the Atlantic seaboard to the continental interior. This view also helped stimulate interest in state and territorial history as well. What Turner did was plant an unwelcome seed in 1893, the full growth of which occurred as the years progressed, with a new generation of historians to welcome what he said and base many of their assumptions on his. Among the many Turnerian scholars to make an impact on western history, Edward Everett Dale, a former student of Turner, left a permanent mark on the study of Oklahoma history and the historical society which was created to preserve it.

To accompany the changes in thought, historical societies were making improvements and gradually emerging into institutions which were better prepared to meet the demands of a wider audience. Seeking historical records has been a popular enterprise for many Americans, and the paucity of research libraries in the first half of the nineteenth century stimulated the establishment of historical societies to meet this need. Before the Civil War, every state east of Texas except Delaware maintained historical organizations, amounting to sixty-five such institutions by 1860. Those early institutions were established for a variety of reasons and many developed regional characteristics.

Southern organizations were created for charitable intentions, while the western societies were primarily fraternal.⁴ As the years passed however, many of the institutions were in need of change and new direction.

The year 1849 marked the establishment of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.⁵ This organization introduced new direction and became a model for institutions which were developing throughout the West. As the years progressed, the people behind historical associations became increasingly aware of their need to upgrade facilities, to clarify and expand their responsibilities and provide service for an increasing number of people. In short, Historical Societies were becoming more open, and by 1893, these organizations were competitors for a share of the public's attention and support.

The direct link to the development and basic goals of the Oklahoma Historical Society was the Kansas organization, which was created in 1875. The Kansas State Historical Society became the first to make the preservation of state newspapers and other publications the primary function. Several future members of the Oklahoma Press Association, including W. P. Campbell, were present when the Kansas press organized that society, and they incorporated many aspects of that experience into the development of the Oklahoma organization in 1893.⁶

Members of the Oklahoma Press Association, who created

the Oklahoma Historical Society, had the benefit of the studies which had been made in the development of better historical associations throughout the country. Men with plans for the future of both territories saw the need to preserve the records during this formative period. Also, many felt that it was essential to form an organization which might help overcome in the future, the negative image which had plagued the Twin Territories. Stephen Long had labeled it part of the "Great American Desert" and unfit for civilized man. The federal government used it as a dumping ground for displaced Indian tribes who stood in the way of the advance of the American frontier. As territories became states, Oklahoma had to wait for the future when it too might gain statehood status.

With the desire to preserve historical records of both territories, the founders were also making an attempt to change Oklahoma's image. This was a positive step in the documentation of Oklahoma's interesting history and it expressed a pride in the past, which needed preserving for future benefit. The spring of 1893 saw the formation of the Oklahoma Historical Society, but statehood had to wait another fourteen years.

The Twin Territories of Oklahoma offered a microcosm of the Indian and Western heritage of the nation. For years, the region had captured the imaginations of many people from other parts of the country. Images of great buffalo herds,

Indian drama, and frontier endeavors were all part of the very real life of the area. The heritage of the West was basic to the heritage of Oklahoma, and that experience, though not entirely unique, was certainly significant in American growth. In discussing the history of Oklahoma, two basic frontiers emerge--the Indian frontier and the Western frontier. For clarity, the experience is divided into four phases, with the Historical Society being part of one phase.

If there is a uniqueness about the history of Oklahoma it would certainly be as the final Indian frontier. At one time, numerous tribes occupied the whole of what we now call the United States and great language families were spread across enormous, geographical sections. Algonkian tribes were concentrated in the area north of the Ohio River, while the great nations comprising the Iroquoian peoples inhabited the Northern Appalachians. Muskogean tribes were situated in the lower Mississippi Valley while the Siouian families were in the upper Mississippi Valley. These groups along with others, show the enormous aboriginal presence in this nation.⁷

Oklahoma shares this heritage with other regions, but there is a point where the common thread separates, and by 1893, many tribes which once dominated other regions were concentrated into this single territory. Their livelihoods, customs and beliefs had been transferred over place and time, while their former lands were being occupied by an

entirely different race and culture.

The story of Oklahoma's Indian frontier began many centuries ago. In terms of human existence, traces of life perhaps fifteen thousand years old may be found here. Archaeologists have discovered the presence of primitive hunters--Clovis man and his successor, Folsom man, from projectile points found in Oklahoma,⁸ while excavation sites have yielded a wealth of information concerning the existence of primitive people in the area. Following the period of the hunters was a span of several thousand years during which early man wandered about in search of food and shelter. Traces found in caves in the Ozarks of the northeastern section and in the Panhandle, as well as findings among the creek and river beds, have definitely proven the existence of early man in Oklahoma.⁹

The Golden Age of Oklahoma prehistory was discovered at the Spiro Mounds site which contained fabulous artifacts dating from the period 900 to 1450 A.D. Early Indian tribes of the western plains invaded the Spiro civilization, and European explorers also entered the region during this period, 1200-1500. Indian people of at least three language stocks--Caddoan, Siouan, and Athapascan--lived in the region at the time of Spanish penetration.¹⁰ In the years up to the great removals of the nineteenth century, various tribes wandered through Oklahoma from time to time.

Included in his famous journals of the 1832 trip into

the Pawnee hunting country of Oklahoma, Washington Irving presented a moving description of members of two Indian tribes which were encountered along the way. A Creek Indian on horseback, "formed a picturesque object, in unison with the wild scenery around him," and having looked the party over, he soon disappeared among the trees. A young Osage, "with the fine Roman countenance common to his tribe," Irving felt might have furnished an excellent model for statuary.¹¹ Irving and his companions saw themselves as mere tourists in a soon-to-be-lost frontier. These early descriptions reflect the dignity of a proud people who even today have not completely lost their relationship with the natural world which has always been basic to their heritage.

The systematic Indian removals in the early nineteenth century, introduced a new era to the aboriginal drama of Oklahoma. Before, the Indian lived in the region because it was his wish; now he was forced there because of the wish of others. The removal of Indian tribes from their native homes was a sad consequence of the American frontier advance and Oklahoma became a tool of the federal government in this process. The removals were the political remedy to the "Indian problem," and with this general mentality, the situation became a case where, "the Indian always retreated, the white man always advanced."¹²

Thomas Jefferson, the genius of American thought, must bear part of the initial blame for the nature of the

Indian policy. The Jeffersonian attempt to provide what was felt to be in the best interest for the Indian only aided in the elimination of the tribal order, and helped set a narrow precedent. Jefferson proposed to use the Louisiana acquisition as a haven for the various Eastern tribes. Many saw this as a simple solution to the Indian problem.¹³ The seed was planted.

Andrew Jackson was the Chief Executive who actually carried the removal plan to reality. The situation was simple, the Five Civilized Tribes owned vast tracts of prime land which was desired by whites. The attitude of extermination was a very real possibility in the minds of many, therefore for this reason as well as other concerns, the national leaders felt they were saving the aboriginal from extinction, by moving them to the lands west of the Mississippi.¹⁴ The removals were long and bitter, and comprise a sad chapter in the pages of American history. Later government policies were made along these lines, and more tribes from various sections of the country were sent to the Indian Territory. Oklahoma gained a varied aboriginal heritage.

In its capacity as a relocation center, Indian Territory was divided into numerous sections to accommodate the various tribes which had transferred their traditional cultures and languages. In the long run, the heritage of the individual tribes became the cumulative legacy of the

Indian Territory. The later land runs were comparable to the entry of the tribes, because both brought successive waves of people, with varying backgrounds, into a common geographic region. The Indian removals were actually the first openings in Oklahoma, the difference being that those people were forced here while the later settlers came voluntarily. The settlement of Oklahoma, therefore became an intense localized example of the national melting pot concept with the amalgamation of different tribes, followed by the infusion of different nationalities, races, ethnic groups, and lifestyles of the later non-Indian settlers.

It was this transfer and mingling of many native customs and beliefs which gave the Indian frontier of Oklahoma a special quality. The nation had shifted the fortunes of an entire race of people and attempted to create new homes for many. This aboriginal presence, which was given up by many other regions, has proven significant in the heritage of Oklahoma and their loss was Oklahoma's gain.

Oklahoma represented another dimension in the heritage of the United States--the Western experience. As Americans pushed beyond the many barriers to settle new lands and seek the "fresh start," they created a series of successive frontiers. First, beyond the Appalachians, then across the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and finally pushing toward the Pacific. Great land acquisitions such as the Louisiana Purchase, the Mexican Cession, and the Oregon

country provided incentives for the people and their expansionist attitudes.

Frederick Jackson Turner spoke of the peculiarity of institutions in America, with their need to, "adapt themselves to the changes of an expanding people--to the changes involved in crossing a continent, in winning a wilderness, and in developing at each area of this process." He spoke of the West as having a "nationalizing tendency" which transformed the country.¹⁵ The term "frontier" holds different meanings, one of which is state of mind. To the people who headed west, the frontier seized their imaginations and pushed them into a dangerous and unknown world, which rewarded some and broke many.

The West has long been a place for new beginnings and it is a constant reminder of our national youth and determination. The West also represents national vastness. In comparison to most nations, the United States had a big backyard and many people simply moved into it. Whether one completely agrees with the Turner Thesis or not, there is no question that the image of the Western frontier has been a vital force in the national character. It was important throughout the early years, it was a factor in the eventual penetration into the Pacific Basin in the 1890's and the concept is still with us.

Oklahoma possessed a colorful Western heritage which represented a microcosm of the Western experience in the

nation. During each of Oklahoma's frontier stages--the early Spanish explorations to the arrival of the first Choteau's, up the path of the Chisholm Trail, during the land runs, through the mineral discoveries and even today, Oklahoma has contributed to the development of the nation.

In American expansion fur hunters, stockmen, miners, soldiers, missionaries, civilized Indians, merchants, and pioneer settlers have established their unique presence on the frontier,¹⁶ and those various groups were all present in the development of Oklahoma. Military installations contributed to the defense of the country and aided scientific and topographical exploration as well. When first constructed, Fort Gibson was on the outer frontier of the Louisiana Territory, making it the farthest westward outpost in the United States.¹⁷ Fort Sill, which was established much later, earned a place in history as a vital military outpost in the Indian country.

Several of the great cattle trails crossed the territory, therefore providing great concourses by which large herds were driven north. "People Trails" were also part of the Oklahoma experience. The Trail of Tears, which brought the displaced Cherokees to the region, was representative of the other sorrow-filled paths which brought the dispossessed. A century later, another group of people would travel the modern Route 66, and more recently Interstate 40 across and then out of Oklahoma toward the

envisioned promised lands of California, marking the continuous flow of history, the movement of the unwanted.

The most spectacular development represented one of the basic themes of the western thought in America--the fresh start. Many people came to Oklahoma because of a dream for livelihood and land, and this pioneer spirit has been a vital force in the history of the region. That dimension adds a special human drama to the overall scope and character of Oklahoma, and the institutions which developed. The people came, as the Indians before them, from many parts of the country and for a variety of reasons. Oklahoma was composed of a mixed civilization which established a lifestyle similar to their pasts, therefore the cultural transfer continued. Land was the key, and it resulted in an unprecedented rush of thousands of people in five successive land runs, which changed forever the fortunes of Oklahoma. Out of these land runs a state was born, and its spirit remained with the people--it was in their blood.¹⁸

The Western frontier of Oklahoma was representative of the great pioneer spirit of the nation. There are so many other components to the overall experience including legendary lawmen and notorious outlaws who roamed the Twin Territories. Railroads and industry helped develop the region. The famous and infamous passed through to leave their marks on the character of Oklahoma.

I mentioned the use of four phases to distinguish

the Oklahoma experience, and the frontiers of the Indian and the West represent key factors to this approach. The first phase covers the period before the nation gained its independence from Great Britain. It reflects the primitive life in the region and includes the later encroachment by European explorers. Though the region played no significant role in the nation-building events of the eastern United States, there was still a life present and a basic push for survival in this uncompromising region. First the Indian, and then the white man and the African became a factor in the life of the area. During this period, the region existed merely as an appendage of other nations which controlled the continental interior from time to time.

Phase two covers an extended period, from the end of the Revolutionary War to 1889, and it represents a significant span in Oklahoma's character development. The region became a part of the territorial acquisition of the United States known as the Louisiana Purchase, and it played a vital role in the Government's policy to relocate various Indian tribes which had been moved from more densely settled areas of the country. Therefore, Indian Territory was in a position of being a tool for the government to use, as it saw fit. People traveled through the area and some remained, but generally Oklahoma existed for the purpose of adopting the unwanted. This was the Golden Age of the Indian and Western frontier in Oklahoma. The desire for land and the

the quest for eventual statehood, brought about the next phase.

The relatively short period from 1889 to statehood in 1907 was a time of high expectations, rapid growth and promotion. In many ways it was a reflection of the national experience. The leaders of the new Oklahoma Territory wanted a much larger role in the national scene, not just as a territory, but as a state. The people of Indian Territory pushed for an Indian state to be named Sequoyah, but the effort failed. Leaders in the Twin Territories were determined not to fall short of their goal, therefore towns grew up overnight, industry evolved, and institutions were developed early.

The Oklahoma Historical Society was established to gather the valuable records pertaining to Oklahoma's heritage, therefore it was part of an overall desire to preserve the past and present while helping promote the region for the future. The leaders of Oklahoma Territory succeeded because of the approach which was used to carry out their long-range plans. In the Indian Territory, traditions tended to weigh them down, plus the threat of non-Indian settlement placed them in a defensive position, which halted progress. The people of Oklahoma Territory made the right moves, and at the right time. In November 1907, their efforts were rewarded and the Twin Territories became a single state.

In the final phase, Oklahoma became one of the forty-six states which then comprised the Union. There was a partnership which developed with the rest of the nation and Oklahoma's goals were blended into national affairs and vice versa. Oklahoma is still in this phase--increasing population and gradually improving.

The Oklahoma Historical Society was born during this time of great excitement and rapid growth. It was a key element in the promotion of the region, and it has been a continuing part of the activities of this state. The Society is a repository of the records of the past and it has definitely had a stake in the growth of Oklahoma. When the institution was established in May 1893, the founders knew that the Twin Territories had a past which was worth preserving, in addition they could gather the primary records as historical events evolved. There was an awareness among its founders that there was a valuable resource of historical data which needed to be preserved for future generations. The Oklahoma Historical Society was created fourteen years before statehood, and it has grown as Oklahoma has grown.

CHAPTER I

ENDNOTES

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¹⁸Phone Interview with Elmer Fraker, Retired, Satellite Beach, Florida, 13 December 1984.

CHAPTER II

ORIGINS AND FOUNDATIONS

Publicity is essential in the development and eventual growth of any new venture, and newspapers served as the primary information source during the territorial and early statehood periods of Oklahoma. An article appearing in Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine in 1910 credited the public press, above all influences, in the advancement and growth of the newly formed state. The article continues, "Since the earliest settlement in Oklahoma, the newspaper--the community newspaper--has been the forerunner of enterprise, the friend of progress."¹

Editors of the early territorial newspapers organized themselves into press societies to better represent their profession and, ultimately, contribute to the building of Oklahoma. In 1888 the Indian Territorial Press Association was established and in 1890 the press association for Oklahoma Territory was established, resulting in the existence of two rival groups within the domain of the future state of Oklahoma. Just as the Twin Territories would become a single state in 1907, the press organizations would

consolidate to form the Oklahoma Press Association in 1906.²

Newspaper editors in Oklahoma Territory established the Oklahoma Historical Society, but before discussing the organizational meeting at Kingfisher, a review of the background of the press associations and the newspapers they represented is necessary because newspapermen in both territories conceived of the idea of a historical institution. Actually, a newspaper in Indian Territory first advocated such a scheme as early as 1891, which was a logical extension of the long tradition of printing in Indian Territory.

The first printing press in Indian Territory was set up at Union Mission in 1835 by the Reverend Samuel A. Worcester. When the Cherokees were removed to Oklahoma, Dr. Worcester and Elias Boudinot were determined to provide a newspaper for their people, once they had established themselves. At New Echota, Georgia, the Cherokee Phoenix had been the earliest aboriginal newspaper in the nation³ and it was revived here in 1844 under a new title, the Cherokee Advocate, which was Oklahoma's first newspaper.⁴ The efforts of the Cherokee and the other tribes to continue publication ventures in their new home represents another example of the cultural transfer of the Indian people over place and time.

Before 1860, a few unofficial papers appeared in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, but they lasted only a brief time. The Advocate itself suspended publication before the Civil War and did not reappear until much later. Following

the war, however, several newspapers were established, representing both the Indian people and the growing number of non-Indian settlers.⁵ Most were published by these newcomers who presented views generally unfavorable to the interests of Indians.⁶

The 1870's were significant in the development of newspapers edited by Indian citizens, though only ten such papers were in existence when the press association was established. The Cherokee Advocate resumed circulation in 1870 and continued until statehood. Other important Indian papers were, the Indian Journal (Muskogee, Eufaula); the Telephone (Tahlequah); Our Brother in Red (Muskogee); Atoka Indian Missionary; Vinita Indian Chieftain⁷ and the Muskogee Phoenix.

An editorial appearing in the November 10, 1887, Indian Journal, suggested a press convention for the Territory. The purpose was to learn from each other and thus, "grow stronger in the good work that is being done by the newspaper fraternity."⁸ The organizational meeting was held at Muskogee on March 19, 1888, with nine editors attending, representing seven of the existing ten newspapers.⁹ A second meeting was planned but seven years passed before they met again.

Pressing issues such as the opening of Oklahoma Territory in 1889 and successive land openings in 1891, 1892, and 1893, took precedence over all local activities.¹⁰ The

citizens of Indian Territory were now in a defensive position, as they observed the opening of large land tracts to settlement. Significant progress was halted and new schemes, including the press association organization were thwarted.

Publicity for the press group was limited to occasional editorials, discussing the place and time for the next meeting, if indeed such an organization still existed. On April 2, 1891, an editorial entitled, "Territorial Historical Association," appeared in the Muskogee Phoenix, mentioning the need for a historical organization in the Indian Territory,¹¹ but it never materialized. When the editors finally met at Purcell in 1895 to reorganize, such an institution did exist--in the other territory.

The people who flooded into Oklahoma Territory experienced a cultural transfer of their own, and they made experience work in the building of a future state. Among the transported cultural necessities were newspapers, which had served their informational needs elsewhere and would continue here. From the very start, newspaper operations were at work, and they clearly reflected the excitement and change of the times.

The first newspaper in the eventual Oklahoma Territory was the Cheyenne Transporter, which originated from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation in 1879.¹² A decade later, following the 1889 land rush, newspaper enterprises grew rapidly throughout the Territory. The Guthrie Getup was

published exactly one week after the run, but it lasted only a few weeks. Oklahoma City saw the development of five different newspapers in 1889, with the Oklahoma City Daily Times first, and the Daily Oklahoman fifth.¹³ The Guthrie State Capitol and the Times of Oklahoma City became the early nucleus of territorial press activity.¹⁴

The Norman Transcript, which first appeared on July 13, 1889, set a standard of the quality for future Oklahoma newspapers. Other key papers were the Edmond Sun (July 1889); El Reno Democrat (1891); Guthrie Daily News (May 1889); Stillwater Gazette (1889); Enid Daily Enterprise (1893) and the Kingfisher Free Press (1889).¹⁵ One major problem with early territorial newspaper operations was oversaturation, which resulted in fierce competition and many failures.

Oklahoma Territory was created by The Organic Act, on May 2, 1890,¹⁶ and its people enjoyed advantages not present in the other territory. Towns developed into well-settled areas, with the growth of government operations occurring within a short period of time. A vital key to success was the opportunity for land ownership. Newspaper endeavors benefited immensely because of these factors, coupled with better organization and absence of obstacles which existed in the older Territory. The Oklahoma half could thus start fresh. Legal advertising, due mainly to government land office notices, resulted in a tremendous boost which increased circulation and generated better profits. The people

of Indian Territory enjoyed none of these benefits, and the traditions, cultural conflicts, and lack of centralization among the many tribal governments and institutions impeded progress and cohesion.¹⁷

Just as newspapers developed quickly in the Oklahoma Territory, the formation of a press association was not long in becoming a reality. H. T. Miller of the Territorial Topic at Purcell called for a meeting of editors to discuss the development of a press society, and on May 20, 1890 a convention was held in that town to organize the Oklahoma and Indian Territory Press Association. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, with the agreement to meet each May at a predetermined location.¹⁸ The second and third annual sessions were held at Oklahoma City and Guthrie, respectively. The 1892 Guthrie meeting is significant because members of the press of Indian Territory were excluded for the reason of their non-involvement. The organization met at Kingfisher in 1893 and adopted the title of Oklahoma Press Association.¹⁹

The Oklahoma Press Association, unlike the Indian Territory counterpart, maintained an active yearly agenda, with the sessions at Purcell, Oklahoma City, and Guthrie providing the initial growth. The meeting at Kingfisher, however, established the long awaited historical institution. With this, the editors achieved in reality what had previously been only an idea. Formation of the Oklahoma Historical Society was not a spontaneous act, but the end

result of past influences which were now employed for future benefit. In short, the idea arrived with the founders. Two vital components lay behind the initial process to organize the Society, the Kansas experience and the energy of William Parker Campbell.

The men who started the early newspapers in Oklahoma Territory began their careers in other states and merely transferred those ventures here. In this regard, the "Kansas connection" is important in the creation of Oklahoma's historical association because several of its founders came directly from that state. Not only were they aware of the activities of the Kansas Editors' and Publishers' Association, they had also witnessed the efforts of that body in the formation of a state historical society in 1875, which was the first to develop primarily for the preservation of state publications.²⁰ These newspapermen, who ultimately came to Oklahoma, incorporated many aspects of the Kansas experience into the framework for establishing a historical institution for Oklahoma.

William P. Campbell was, above all others, the essential force behind the creation and early development of the Oklahoma Historical Society. His steadfast belief in its purpose and untiring diligence toward its initial achievements, helped guide the struggling organization through some difficult times. Beginning an early newspaper career, Campbell moved to Kansas in 1869, where he published the

Waterville Telephone and later established the Wamego Tribune, in 1877. He was in attendance when the Kansas editors formed their state historical society in 1875 at Manhattan, later becoming an active member.

When Campbell came to Oklahoma Territory in 1892, he brought three influences which would remain throughout his years of service to the Historical Society--respect for the frontier life, which was basic to his early experience; familiarity with the newspaper business; and knowledge of the various aspects involved in the development and growth of a historical institution. In 1893, he became deputy register of deeds for Kingfisher County, then editor of the Hennessey Democrat--a position he held when the press association met in May of that year.²¹

The Kingfisher meeting began on Friday afternoon of May 26, at approximately 5:30 P.M.,²² with an air of excitement which characterized the mood of the editors, and of the townspeople as well. Being the host city for a press convention meant not only a boost for the local economy, but invaluable publicity for growth. One newspaper account captured the arrival of the press in grand style: "As the train rolled in from the south bearing the knights of the quill, carriages were in waiting at the depot to receive them. A drive over the city was first in order, during which the Anheuser-Busch and Pabst wholesale houses were visited, at each of which places the editors were treated

to lunch and beverage, calculated to cool the agitated brain."²³ The afternoon activities concluded with a visit to the residence of Ex-Governor Abraham J. Seay.

The evening reception was held at the Opera House on Robberts Avenue, with J. L. Admire of the Kingfisher Free Press presiding. Mayor J. C. Robberts delivered an address of welcome, which pictured Oklahoma and the press as being the finest anywhere. The response was given by Frank McMasters of the Oklahoma City Gazette, then a paper was presented entitled, "The Newspaper As A Town Builder," by Joe E. Quein of the Edmond News. A banquet, hosted by Vol Sayre, was held later that evening at the Johnson House with Frank McMasters serving as toastmaster.²⁴

The banquet is of particular interest, because of the long line of toasts, which added a special flavor to the atmosphere of the gathering. These stirring renditions include, "Oklahoma in general and its future," "The Grip," "The Subscription List as a Civilizer," "How can a Newspaperman Serve God, the Devil and Himself without a Stomach," "The Biggest Liar on Earth," and "Can a Newspaper Man Enter Heaven." W. P. Campbell offered a toast entitled, "Does the Devil Own the Printing Office or the Printing Office Own the Devil," in which he systematically traced the origin of the editor to the devil.²⁵ Unfortunately, several members were absent from the Friday activities because they thought the meeting, including the banquet, would be held on Saturday.²⁶

The men of the press may have wined and dined themselves and socialized royally on Friday night, but the morning business meeting of Saturday, May 27, 1893, produced numerous worthy accomplishments. Nineteen members of the territorial press, representing sixteen newspapers in eight cities, were in attendance²⁷ when the temporary chairman, W. P. Campbell, opened the meeting. The initial comments repeated the goals of the association, followed by induction of new members into the body. Newly elected officers were--Joe Quein, President; Elmer Brown, Vice-President; H. B. Gilstrap, Secretary and Effie Gilstrap, Treasurer. The Executive Committee consisted of McMasters, Frank Purcell and Frank Greer; then W. P. Thompson, W. P. Campbell and Frank Prouty were appointed to a committee to plan an excursion to the Chicago World's Fair.²⁸

One item of major importance to the future of newspaper operations within the Territory, was the issue of legal rates. There was talk that a feud was developing among publishers over rate cuttings and printing contracts which were overlapping districts.²⁹ On the very day of the Kingfisher meeting, the Hennessey Democrat ran an editorial entitled "Something Rotten," which accused the Kingfisher Free Press of printing land notices which clearly belonged to the Hennessey papers. The piece continued, "While we do not expect to get any thing from the land office, as long as the Admire gang is in, we do feel we have a kick coming,

and are not afraid to kick."³⁰ Frank Greer offered resolutions calling for the support of legal rates and a pledge from the membership to stand by them.³¹ The Green resolutions passed, therefore settling the issue for the time being.

W. P. Campbell next took the floor, recalling that on April 9, 1875 it had been his good fortune to attend and to participate in the Kansas Press Association meeting at Manhattan from which evolved a historical institution. He pointed out that the primary responsibility of the organization was to collect and preserve state newspapers and other printed materials, and perhaps Oklahoma editors should undertake a similar effort. He then moved that the assembled members of the Oklahoma Press Association establish a historical society, with the expressed purpose of gathering and preserving all publications of Oklahoma and Indian Territory of historical significance. The motion carried after a brief discussion, and Campbell was named Custodian.³²

The Oklahoma Historical Society was established as a department of the Oklahoma Press Association³³ with no official status.³⁴ The association created the institution, but they did not "organize" it. What they did was to form an organization based on Campbell's suggestions with the elected officers of the group as the governing body. It was decided that Kingfisher would be the headquarters, where a room in the county courthouse was provided to house the

collections. What they did not do was define operational guidelines, nor provide long-range funding to meet the necessary expenses, therefore placing the bulk of the work squarely on the custodian's shoulders.³⁵ Granting these limitations, the founders had the foresight to see the benefit of such an organization to the future of Oklahoma, the wisdom to choose the one man who could make it work, and the common sense not to interfere.

The session adjourned and the editors returned to their newspapers but for Campbell and the society at Kingfisher, the process was only beginning. His familiarity with the basic activities of such an organization meant that the custodian was to take charge, develop the needed framework, and manage the affairs of the project. In essence, Campbell was the institution, with the founding members becoming contributors, and any progress over the next two years would come mainly as a result of his efforts. Not only did he receive no salary, but the majority of expenses for stationery, postage and other essentials came from the pockets of Campbell and his brother.³⁶

On May 29, 1893, just two days following the founding session, Campbell issued a small, five-paragraph leaflet marked "Circular One" with the partial heading "Office of Historical Custodian, Oklahoma Press Association." This served as the basic format of the historical society until its legal incorporation under the sessions laws of 1895.

Two items from this are of particular significance: first, an immediate request for donations of printed materials, and second, a clear-cut statement of purpose: "The object in establishing this department is the collection of newspapers, books and periodicals, productions of art, science and literature, matters of historic interest, etc."³⁷ Now, an open invitation for contributions and the initial plan were in print and were sent to newspaper editors, magazine publishers, and businessmen and leading citizens of the Territory.

This circular, coupled with the efforts of individual members of the press association, who sent issues of their papers and helped spread the word, produced some quick results with the first acquisitions arriving during the summer. The collections which came to the institution from June 1, 1893, until January, 1895, when a second society was formed at Norman, were significant, and the structure which was developed at Kingfisher would be continued. As early as July, 1893, Campbell's efforts were gaining publicity, and attention was being focused on the organization. The following newspaper comment reflects the general attitude toward Campbell's efforts: "He has succeeded in awakening a good interest in the formation of a society for the collection and preservation of historical data, and if the legislature will give a little assistance at its next session it will be found that a good foundation has already been laid for a historical society."³⁸

In August, another significant development occurred with the first issue of the Mistletoe Leaves. This four-page periodical was the pioneer publication of the Historical Society, developed by Campbell to stimulate interest in the organization. One of its strengths was in providing one of the best means for monitoring the number of contributed items and the individuals or organizations which supplied them. The publication enjoyed only a brief life, ending in 1895. Campbell made a major error because, while he was preserving the newspapers and documents from throughout the Territory, he failed to do the same for the society's own publication, thus, only three separate issues of the early Mistletoe Leaves have been found in the historical building.³⁹

The first issue of the Leaves, dated August 5, 1893, provides an invaluable list of materials which were received during the first months of operation. The newspapers on file included nine dailies and forty-seven weeklies, with a listing of seventeen missing issues, which were requested from readers. A sketch of the major contributions include: a collection from the territorial university; cards and bulletins from the Stillwater Experiment Station and Agricultural College; rules of the 1893 territorial council; a rare edition of the American Cyclopaedia of History, Biography and Travels, 1856; minutes of the Congressional Association, 1890-1893; Payne's Oklahoma, illustrated;

twenty-eight volumes of books on antiquity; Prospectus and Announcement of the University of Oklahoma; Oklahoma governor's Reports, 1891-1893; Common School Laws of Oklahoma, 1893 and Township Laws, 1893.⁴⁰

The issue for August 12, 1893, shows that seventeen newspapers were added, and the one for September 2, lists twenty-eight papers received after August 12. When Campbell made a review of the organization in 1905, he included a thorough listing of accessions at the end of the report, which, under various categorical headings, discloses an impressive number of collections that came to the organization during the Kingfisher years.⁴¹ By far the greatest achievement was the gathering of newspapers from both territories and a few surrounding states, which, after all, were the very products of many of these editors. The newspaper collection grew the fastest.

Another important development which affected the early organization was the opening of the lands in the Cherokee Outlet on September 16, 1893. The newspapermen at the Kingfisher meeting in May, 1893, were well aware that it was only a matter of time before the area would be opened to settlement, thereby stimulating more business for their newspapers which were experiencing economic problems. The formation of the historical society was viewed as a great benefit for these future developments because the anticipated number of deeds, land claims, and other important

records would be housed in one centralized location. Also, Campbell's experience in working with deeds, proved to be of value to the organization.⁴² In essence, the historical institution was in a favorable position to preserve records, and therefore document the continued growth of Oklahoma Territory. In other words, it served as an instrument for the future.

As the collections grew, it became obvious that larger accommodations than the single courthouse room could provide were needed. It was also clear that more money was necessary to meet the rising expenses, but no significant action was taken. When the society was formed, the members were each assessed one dollar for the fund,⁴³ but, as previously mentioned, most expenses were met by the custodian. At the 1894 Guthrie meeting, a donation of \$35.50 was made for the library.⁴⁴ The founders possessed foresight without generosity. An article appearing in a Guthrie paper on June 2, 1894, best summed up the situation when it called for better economic support from the newspaper fraternity. The editors were urged to use their influences upon the territorial executive to provide better funding and accommodations for the organization and to "take up the thought and place it before the people of the territory in its proper light."⁴⁵

In Governor William C. Renfro's message before the 1895 legislature, the first official recognition of the Oklahoma Historical Society was made before that body. The

first few lines were similar to "Circular One," as it began with a review of the establishment and purpose of the organization. Renfro reported that Campbell had accumulated practically all publications of the twin territories, and that the results of the venture had been successful. Finally, in a plea to the legislative body, the governor stated, "The importance of collecting and preserving inviolate this great source from which the future history of Oklahoma may be read and written, is a subject which ought to demand the attention of the Legislature to secure the permanency of such a bureau."⁴⁶

The 1895 Legislature passed a concurrent resolution, ordering that a sufficient quantity of territorial documents be turned over to the custodian for exchange with other states and territories. This was the second official recognition, and it successfully furnished the documents for that year.⁴⁷ The struggling organization began receiving some backing from the government and was adding more materials to its inventory, but still, it had outgrown the existing headquarters and changes were of immediate concern.

Days were now numbered for the Kingfisher organization and one era in the life of the Society was about to give way to another. The editors held a meeting at Perry, on February 13, 1895, with the purpose of drafting a charter and presenting it to the legislature, which was then in session. The members wanted to gain the necessary funding and

support for the collections, but they were too late. The faculty and students at the University of Oklahoma had chartered a similar organization the previous January, and had already gone before the legislative body.⁴⁸ As a result, the collections were transferred to the "legal" institution at Norman.

The formation of a second Historical Society was, in one respect, the fulfillment of a class assignment. In a much larger respect however, the transfer of the collections to Norman was an overall result of university and community effort, disinterest of the Press Association, and key legislative support for the Norman location. From an effort which began in a history class in December, 1894, through the relocation of the institution by March, 1895, and until the first move to Oklahoma City, in January 1902, the organization known as the Oklahoma Historical Society, was located at the University in Norman.

When the University of Oklahoma first opened its doors on September 15, 1892, there were 57 students and four members of the faculty, including the president, David Ross Boyd. By the 1894-95 school year, enrollment had increased to 186 students and five faculty members. On December 18, 1894, a history class, under the guidance of the instructor F. S. E. Amos, organized itself into a historical society to gain a better understanding of Oklahoma history and contribute to the struggling university.⁴⁹ The organization was "very

unofficial" to say the least, but with the exception of their sizeable collections, the Kingfisher society was in no better position. President Boyd supported the project and directed it, and through his efforts and the influence of several leading citizens of Norman, some decidedly positive results were quickly realized.⁵⁰

David Ross Boyd, who spent his early life in Ohio, graduated from the University of Wooster in 1878, with the degree of Master of Arts. While he was serving as superintendent of schools at Arkansas City, Arkansas, a committee from the Oklahoma regents conducted an interview with him, and on July 6, 1892, he accepted the position as president of the University of Oklahoma.⁵¹ He was very interested in the historical society project, and was well aware of the benefit that such an organization could provide for the University.

French S. E. Amos was born in West Virginia, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Centenary College in Texas. He came to the University of Oklahoma in 1892 as an instructor in English, Civics and History. He became very active in the class historical organization and served as its first president. In 1895, he left to pursue various newspaper ventures, and eventually served as a president of the Indian Territorial Press Association before returning to the university to teach government until 1938.⁵²

The efforts of these two men, along with the support of various individuals, including W. T. Little and W. T. Walker, quickly gained the necessary legal status for the organization. Boyd made a trip to Guthrie in January of 1895, and discovered that the Kingfisher society had no charter nor the necessary incorporation articles. A meeting of the combined University and civic community of Norman was held, and on January 16, 1895, an application for charter was made, and granted on January 21.⁵³ In a period of little more than one month this second historical organization, which was similar to the original in Kingfisher, held the necessary incorporation papers and charter, and was prepared to go before the legislature.

The Articles of Incorporation for the Oklahoma Historical Society, dated January 16, 1895, was the first legal document of this group. The purpose, "to collect, embody, arrange, and preserve books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, photographs, stationery, and other materials illustrative of the history of Oklahoma in particular, and the country generally; to procure from the earlier settlers narratives of the events relative to the early settlement of Oklahoma, and of the early explorations, the Indian occupancy and immigration to the Territory and the West," went beyond any previous guidelines. It concluded with the specifications that twenty-five directors be appointed for one year each, and that the officers be

president, two vice-presidents, secretary, and a treasurer.⁵⁴

The founders immediately went before the territorial legislature at Guthrie to seek recognition for their society and to confirm Norman as their headquarters. A bill was quickly prepared and very carefully worded, which was approved by the upper house. The bill met mild complications before it carried in the lower house because the editorial meeting at Perry had taken place. At this meeting, the members assigned the collection to the custodian, who was given the responsibility of taking any action he felt necessary in light of the present situation.⁵⁵

The Perry session did produce a compromise which, besides moving the materials and providing a two-year appropriation, gave the editorial body a permanent controlling membership on the board. With this, the bill passed the lower house and became law, forming the Oklahoma Historical Society and providing a \$2,000 appropriation.⁵⁶ This action finally provided the needed governmental support, especially the long overdue funding. As far as Campbell was concerned, there was nothing he could do but accept the changes. The institution was now incorporated under territorial law, and the words "university" and "university library" were specifically mentioned in the language of the bill,⁵⁷ which clearly meant that the collections would be transferred from Kingfisher to Norman.

Council Bill Number 74, which pertains to the Oklahoma

Historical Society, was the successful product of a combined university and community effort, and resulted from shrewd political maneuvers within the power structure of the legislature.⁵⁸ Section One provided that the institution be a territorial trustee for historical materials and stipulated the guidelines by which it was to operate. Section Two defined the duties of the organization beginning with language similar to the articles of incorporation. Section three concerned accounts, and how they were to be reported to the governor. Finally, the fourth section provided for the necessary appropriation. On February 21, 1895,⁵⁹ the bill was approved, and the Society was relocated at Norman within a very short period of time. This action, although the best move for the future of the organization, made W. P. Campbell a casualty.

Within a few days the custodian received instructions from the university to send all collections to Norman, to which he complied. He packed the materials personally and paid the freight. His final contribution was to pay the initial expenses for shelving at the university. In June, he was paid \$450.00 for the "right, title, and interest," which included salary up to June 1.⁶⁰ Finally, when he was informed that because the Kingfisher organization had no legal status and the Historical Society was no longer under obligation to him, he resigned on July 10, 1895.⁶¹ The man who made the original motion to create the institution, as

well as setting up the basic guidelines and paying the expenses for keeping the venture in operation was relieved of his duties. The collections which came to Norman were the product of Campbell's efforts, and though his services were no longer required, the Society would forever be indebted to the original custodian.

Under the guidance of French Amos the collections were placed in a room in the single building which comprised the University of Oklahoma at that time. Even though the society had a small appropriation with which to operate there were still no funds for salaries, and managing the collections continued on a voluntary basis. During the first year, members of the faculty and student officers provided the work force, but this gradually changed as the organization developed. Unlike the Kingfisher experience, the growth at Norman was achieved through a team effort.⁶² In short, the combined effort which succeeded in bringing the organization to the University in the first place was employed to accomplish the goals of the historical society.

During the Norman years the collection grew, but not at the rate it should have. University leaders seemed to put more emphasis on the fact that the organization was in their possession than on the realization of what benefits sustained growth of the collection could provide for the territory.⁶³ They lost touch with their original goals, and appeared to have fallen into the same pattern of

inactivity that plagued the Press Association. They knew that a valuable collection was in their possession, but forgot that constant attention must be applied to develop and strengthen it.

The Oklahoma Historical Society finally was a legal institution with the first, in a long series of directors expanding its leadership base. The Kingfisher organization had been created as a department of the Press Association, while the new institution was under territorial control. The first Board of Directors, for 1895-96, included W. C. Renfrow, Guthrie; David Ross Boyd, Norman; W. R. Asher, Tecumseh; T. B. Ferguson, Watonga; James H. Hale, Pawnee; A. J. Seay and J. V. Admire, Kingfisher; and Effie Gilstrap, Chandler. The officers were, F. S. E. Amos, President; John T. Hefley and Katherine Pennistone, Vice-Presidents; Nettie Walker, Secretary; and D. B. Phillips, Treasurer.⁶⁴

The man who succeeded Campbell as custodian was William T. Little of Perry, who had briefly served in the territorial House of Representatives and had supported the move of the society to Norman. Little was qualified but had a wide range of interests which, unfortunately, occupied much of his attention, and detracted from his effectiveness with the historical society.⁶⁵ As a result, a large amount of the work fell on students who performed well, but who lacked the essential leadership which Campbell had provided. Of the accessions which came to the society during Little's

tenure, the documents relating to the Cimarron Territory were the most valuable.⁶⁶

One problem which beset the historical organization during its last two years at Norman was the lack of cohesive leadership on the custodial level. While the board was given governing powers over the society, it was the custodian who needed to direct the affairs and provide the day-to-day leadership basic to the success of the institution. Little served until January, 1900, to be followed by three custodians within a very short time. Don Northup served from January to June, 1900; G. A. Burklin, June to August, 1900; and E. M. Vanderslice, from August 1900 to January 1902. With this turnover in leadership, the organization merely functioned and there were no major advances. It is also important to note that during these years, and until W. P. Campbell returned in 1904, there was no historical publication produced in the name of the institution.⁶⁷

However, during this Norman period, the Board of Directors included several members of note. One of the most prominent was Sidney Clarke. Taking an active part in the effort to open Oklahoma for settlement, Clarke represented the Boomer Movement as their representative in Washington, D.C. In 1898 and 1900, he served as a member of the territorial legislature and will always be remembered as one of the strongest supporters for Oklahoma statehood.⁶⁸ A letter, dated June 10, 1896, informed him that he had been elected

as a director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and he served in that capacity, which included a brief period as custodian, until 1906.⁶⁹ His experience in the early Oklahoma movement provided a vital element to the better understanding of an era and of the need to preserve the documents which resulted from those historic events.

The organization eventually outgrew its university quarters, and the need for larger accommodations was evident. Also, with so many valuable papers and documents relating to the territorial period, the fear of destruction of the collection by fire was of major concern. The University simply did not have the funds to furnish a larger area with the necessary safety measures. Finally, an offer was made and accepted to transfer the materials to the new fire-proof Carnegie Library in Oklahoma City and in January, 1902, the Historical Society moved there.⁷⁰

CHAPTER II

ENDNOTES

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- ²⁵Hennessey Democrat, 3 June 1893, p. 4.
- ²⁶Wright, "Organization of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma:300.

²⁷William P. Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress; Accessions and Donors, Historic Papers, (Perry: Noble County Sentinel Print, 1905), p. 4.

²⁸Thoburn, History of the Oklahoma Press Association, Oklahoma Press Association Meeting, 1893.

²⁹Wright, "Organization of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma:301.

³⁰"Something Rotten," Hennessey Democrat, 27 May 1893, p. 3.

³¹Hennessey Democrat, 3 June 1893, p. 4.

³²Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, pp. 4, 5.

³³Eva Riggins Johnson, "The Oklahoma Historical Society and Its Work," (Master of Arts Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1926), p. 1.

³⁴Elmer L. Fraher, "A New Day for the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma 43 (Summer 1965): 212.

³⁵Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 1.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷William P. Campbell, Circular One: Office of Historical Custodian, Oklahoma Press Association, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, May 29, 1893.

³⁸Hennessey Clipper, 7 July 1893, p. 5.

³⁹Angie Debo, "Early Publications of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (Autumn 1948): 326.

⁴⁰Mistletoe Leaves, August 5, 1893.

⁴¹Ibid., August 12, 1893; September 2, 1893.

⁴²Wright, "Organization of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma:301, 302.

⁴³Thoburn, History of the Oklahoma Press Association, Oklahoma Press Association Meeting, 1893.

⁴⁴Ibid., Oklahoma Press Association, 1894.

⁴⁵"Oklahoma Historical Society," Daily Oklahoma State Capital, 2 June 1894, p. 2.

⁴⁶Oklahoma State Archives, Territorial Governors Papers, Governor's Message to Third Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma, Record Group 12-1, Box 2-A, File Folder A, January 8, 1895, p. 10, Historical Bureau.

⁴⁷Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 6.

⁴⁸Ibid., p. 7.

⁴⁹Roy Gittinger, The University of Oklahoma: A History of Fifty Years, 1892-1942 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942), pp. 1-21.

⁵⁰Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 2.

⁵¹Gittinger, The University of Oklahoma, pp. 8, 9.

⁵²Ibid., p. 9; Foreman, Oklahoma Imprints, p. 98.

⁵³J. B. Thoburn to Miss Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, p. 3, Folder OK-2; Joseph B. Thoburn Papers, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Oklahoma Historical Society. Hereafter cited as Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵⁴Articles of Incorporation, No. 3354 A, Office of the Secretary of the Territory of Oklahoma, Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, 632-633. Corporation Record No. 3, Territory of Oklahoma. Certified in Cleveland County by Thomas J. Lowe, Territorial Secretary, on January 21, 1895, pp. 632-633, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵⁵Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 7.

⁵⁶Ibid.

⁵⁷Oklahoma, Session Laws of 1895 (1895):150-152.

⁵⁸Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2,
p. 4. Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵⁹Session Laws of 1895:150-152.

⁶⁰Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 2.

⁶¹Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2,
pp. 4-5, Thoburn Papers Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶²Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 3.

⁶³Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2,
p. 5, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶⁴Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 11.

⁶⁵Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2,
p. 5, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶⁶Ibid.; Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress,
p. 224.

⁶⁷Ibid., p. 12.

⁶⁸Sidney Clarke, "Opening of Oklahoma," Chronicles
of Oklahoma 39, (Autumn 1961):234.

⁶⁹Miss Nettie Walker to Hon. Sidney Clarke, June 10,
1896, p. 16. Sidney Clarke Collection, Western History
Collections, University of Oklahoma. Hereafter cited as
Clarke Collection, University of Oklahoma.

⁷⁰Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 3.

of prominence, but its major attraction to the directors of the Historical Society was that it contained one of the finest and most complete collections in the territory--the Carnegie Library.

CHAPTER III

OKLAHOMA CITY: THE EARLY YEARS

The period 1902-1917 was marked by growth and increased change for the Oklahoma Historical Society, but the economic problems which hampered the early progress of the organization continued. During this period, Oklahoma experienced tremendous change, and the Historical Society moved from being a repository for territorial collections to an institution which represented the history of a new state. In this respect, the Society was in a position to preserve the remains of one era, while gathering the primary records of another. Finally, the return of W. P. Campbell in 1904, with the advent of Jasper Sipes in the same year, provided long term leadership which reflected the style of the past and introduced some new ideas for the future.

The Oklahoma Historical Society had been in existence for eight and one-half years when the first move to Oklahoma City was made in January 1902. At this time, the future state capital was a rapidly growing and prosperous city, but the real center of activity and seat of territorial government was still at Guthrie. Oklahoma City was on the verge

of prominence, but its major attraction to the directors of the Historical Society was that it contained one of the finest and safest buildings in the territory--the Carnegie Library.

The collection, which was still housed at Norman, was stored in a crowded University building because there was no other place on campus to relocate. A move to obtain more space was obviously necessary, but the most pressing issue was the growing fear that a fire could totally destroy the materials. Board President Lincoln McKinlay, in his 1901-02 report, clearly stated, "what was more important, the necessity of fire-proof rooms for the safe-keeping of the rapidly increasing collections of the Society, became very apparent." The report continues, "This fact has been since emphasized by the burning of the entire plant of one of the greatest newspapers in the territory, with all its back files; and had it not been for the Historical Society, which had these files in bound volumes, a very important history of Oklahoma would have been irrevocably lost."¹

On February 7, 1901, a law gave the Directors power to remove the collections from the University whenever a suitable and safe structure could be found. It also provided that the institution and its property would move to the territorial capitol, when such a building existed. A similar law was approved on February 20, 1901² and under these provisions the search for a new site was underway. At

the annual meeting in June 1901, the Board accepted an offer from the directors of the Carnegie Library in Oklahoma City to house the collections until the proposed capitol was constructed. The offer included the use of the entire "stack room" floor, complete with necessary services, at a cost of one dollar per year lease. In September, a contract was approved by the officers of both institutions, with an agreement that the collections would leave Norman the following January. The move turned out to be fortunate because the University building which had served as collections storage was totally destroyed by fire in 1903.³

The newly completed library was the product of community effort and the generosity of Andrew Carnegie. It also was the first fire-proof building in Oklahoma.⁴ In May 1898, the Philo-mathic Club of Oklahoma City pledged to secure a free public library, and through their efforts and community donations, the initial books were purchased and a temporary home provided by the Commercial Club. Carnegie made a \$25,000 contribution for a permanent building, and in August 1900, construction began. The library was completed on August 27, 1901, and Oklahoma City could proudly boast the finest and most impressive library structure in the territory. A few years later, Carnegie gave another \$25,000 and by 1908, the total amount for Oklahoma library projects in his name was estimated at \$183,000.⁵

The new home for the historical society was a source

of pride for all concerned, because not only was there a sense of security for the existing materials, but there was room to encourage growth. The first months were spent in arranging the collections and attempting to create some order from the existing chaotic conditions. No attempt had been made to properly file the materials, but over the next years some progress was made. The staff consisted of a custodian and file clerk, and each was paid a salary of \$45.00 a month.⁶ Under the circumstances, some progress was made, and by 1905 accession books for the general materials and newspapers were added along with a card system, but these accomplishments were slow. In fact, no significant catalog or filing system was actually developed until Joseph Thoburn made an attempt in 1917, and even that was delayed until after 1921 because of the lack of adequate funding.⁷

The first officers of the Carnegie-based organization were: Lincoln McKinlay, President; David Ross Boyd and Sidney Clarke, Vice-Presidents; Lou Whorton, Secretary; and Joseph W. McNeal, Treasurer. Marion Rock, a librarian at the Carnegie building, served as custodian during the first year and under her guidance the initial arrangement was accomplished. On March 28, 1903 Sidney Clarke became custodian and during his brief term the official court records of the Greer County case were added to the collection.⁸ The Society had capable leaders, but it lacked stability on the custodial level because there was no financial incentive to

warrant full attention or long term commitments.⁹ No individual after W. P. Campbell put so much time and energy into the project, and no custodian after W. T. Little served longer than one year during that period.

W. P. Campbell, who had been coldly dismissed nine years earlier, began a second tenure as custodian on June 1, 1904 and he remained in that capacity for twenty years. When he left the Historical Society in 1895, he returned to newspaper work in several cities, including Topeka and Kansas City.¹⁰ The Directors knew that the institution needed his experience and devotion, and Campbell wanted to be involved with the institution as well. The collection had grown, and of course some changes had occurred in nine years, but basically it had remained the same; therefore he resumed where he had left off.

The Society not only gained leadership stability on the custodial level, with Campbell's return, but a new president emerged in 1907 who provided many years of steady devotion on the highest level. Jasper Sipes first became a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1894, then became a director in 1900. In 1904, he was elected as a vice-president of the organization and filled the remainder of Lincoln McKinlay's presidency in 1906. In 1907, he became president in his own right and served until 1926. Sipes served the institution in these various levels longer than any other individual of the time, including Campbell.¹¹

Japer Sipes first came to Oklahoma Territory at the time of the land run of April 22, 1889. He made a homestead claim in Oklahoma County near the tent community of Oklahoma City, where he established a business. He quickly became a pioneer in school ventures throughout the territory, and helped equip, organize and finance many early Oklahoma schools. In 1893 he published the Oklahoma Territory School Herald which eventually became the Oklahoma Teacher magazine. His devotion and generosity helped establish the early schools and he was the last surviving member of the Oklahoma Territory Teacher's Association.¹² When he became involved in the efforts of the Historical Society, he devoted a great amount of his attention to its future growth and was instrumental in gaining support for a permanent historical building in 1931.

For the next two decades and through the years spent at the Carnegie Library, both Sipes and Campbell guided the destiny of the historical institution. In this respect, the Society would never again be faced with the problem of leadership inadequacy because there were capable persons to take over when the older generation was gone. In many ways the management became too stabilized, with devotion too personal, resulting in several later conflicts. In short, Sipes, Campbell and others outlasted their effectiveness and contributed problems as well as benefits to the organization. For the duration of the Carnegie years however,

Campbell and Sipes provided one of the best working leadership combinations that the Society ever knew.

In 1905, Campbell prepared a lengthy report called the Review of Inception and Progress: Accessions and Donors, Historic Papers. It began with a brief review of the organizational establishment at Kingfisher and briefly sketched the Norman and early Carnegie years. A copy of "Circular One" was included along with the later constitution and by-laws of the Society. In one section, Campbell presented a listing of press association officers for 1893 and 1894, and included a detailed breakdown of all organizational directors and officers, with periods of service from 1893 to 1905.¹³

For the initial Carnegie years, Campbell mentioned the recent accomplishments and provided a progress report for 1904. In October, a letter was sent to various political candidates in each county, asking for photographs and other items to be used in a future territorial history. In June, 232 volumes of publications were sent to Guthrie for binding and in March 1905 an additional 252 volumes were sent. From June 1, 1904, to June 1, 1905, one thousand eight hundred sixty-nine letters were sent out and correspondence was opened with various state historical societies, resulting in the mutual exchange of publications. When the National Editorial Association met at Guthrie in June, 1905, the Society issued cards requesting copies of papers or the itinerary, to be bound in a souvenir volume.¹⁴

The most significant contribution of the report was the thorough account of all accessions to 1905. The main categories were: Art Collections--Photographs; Publications --Oklahoma (by county); Oklahoma Publications--Discontinued; Publications--Indian Territory; Indian Territory Publications --Discontinued; Indian Territory Stray Publications; N.E.A. Publications--Bound and publications received from various states (especially Kansas).¹⁵ This multi-paged report is highly significant because it provides one final, detailed account of territorial records which were housed in the institution. The next major report, for 1907-08, listed the primary acquisitions after statehood.

The individuals who founded the Historical Society in 1893 were looking ahead to the future of Oklahoma as well. There had been a blending purpose behind the Oklahoma Territory ventures, and statehood was an ultimate goal. When the press association for Oklahoma Territory was created, the members originally included the editors of Indian Territory in the title and scope of their organization. When they established the Historical Society, an immediate request for publications of both territories was put into effect.¹⁶

The same was not true for Indian Territory however, because there was simply no attempt to include the new territory. The 1891 Muskogee Phoenix article mentioned a "historical association" for that territory only, and in light of the non-attendance at the Oklahoma press sessions,

Indian Territory leaders had no intention of becoming involved. They made one final attempt at separation in 1905, when delegates met at Muskogee to write a constitution for the proposed Indian state of Sequoyah, but the effort failed. There existed an understandable attitude of segregation, and various organizational and institutional ventures were intended for themselves.¹⁷

The inclusion of both territories by the press association of Oklahoma represented one example in a larger overall effort to bring both sections together, and statehood was the final result. The long awaited event came on November 16, 1907, when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Proclamation which admitted Oklahoma to the Union.¹⁸ With the single stroke of a pen, the years of work and patience had finally been rewarded and a new era was beginning for Oklahoma and its institutions, which included the Historical Society.

The Custodians Report 1907-08, for the Oklahoma Historical Society provided the listings for acquisitions since statehood and it gave one final numerical account of the territorial holdings. A partial listing of territorial collections include; 3,034 bound newspapers and periodicals; 1,027 bound books; 1,884 unbound documents and official reports; 208 speeches and papers for Oklahoma and Indian Territory; 656 manuscripts and 426 House and Senate papers. The total of all territorial holdings was 10,449.¹⁹

The majority of the report covers all acquisitions

since statehood and gives an account of the activities of the institution from November 1906 to December 31, 1908. The appropriations for that period were \$3,250.00 with the incidental fund and membership fees totaling \$1,187,00. Campbell noted that two histories of Oklahoma had been written, and that Joseph Thoburn had helped the Society locate photographs of distinguished territorial personalities in addition to securing valuable books for the collection. The most impressive figure shows that 1,136 items of historical nature had been added in that short period of time.²⁰ The transition period appears to have been relatively smooth.

On April 26, 1906, all records of the Five Civilized Tribes which were available at the time of tribal dissolution, were ordered by Congress, to be transferred to the Secretary of the Interior. At this time, the dissolution had been indefinitely postponed, opening the possibility that a significant portion of those valuable records might be rightfully turned over to the archives of the state of Oklahoma. A bill was proposed which gave the authorization to turn over "any records, seals, papers or documents not required by the laws of the state to be kept as public records to turn the same over to the Oklahoma Historical Society." When this bill became law, the Society eventually expanded its obligations to become a custodian of the state public archives.²¹

This was a significant milestone in the life of the

institution because it represented the first step in gaining access to the vital records of the Indian and his cultural life in the state and region. In the following years, the Indian records became one of the strengths of the Society and they were gathered early. First, the collection of newspapers from Indian Territory in the 1890's and secondly, the records of tribal life, customs and law reflected the vast impact of the Indian frontier in Oklahoma. The Historical Society began this worthwhile effort at a time when the documentation of the Native American was neither appreciated nor fully comprehended by a large part of this nation.

A letter written in 1908 provides an example of the efforts which were made to secure one portion of the Indian records--those of missionary and educators. The letter stated, "As over fifty Indian Tribes, including six nations, have figured in the settlement of Oklahoma, this society is anxious to secure as much as possible concerning mission and educational work among the Indians, especially such as is not available in Government and other current books."²² This illustrates the efforts to secure the records of Oklahoma's Indian heritage.

The work of the society was temporarily halted when in May, 1907, the custodian received notice that the portion of the Carnegie Library which housed the collection was to be remodeled. The materials and furniture were transferred to the Western Newspaper Union building until the work was

completed. When the collection was returned the following month, it was placed in a new room on the ground floor, which had a main entrance from Robinson Street.²³ The new accommodations were better but there was concern that the continuous moves were damaging to the collection. This was the third physical move since 1895, and the organization would undergo several more over the next two decades before it had a permanent home. Until that time, the institution, its collections and employees were at the mercy of various landlords.

On September 15, 1909, Campbell began a second institutional publication called Historia, which was basically a longer version of his first publishing venture, the Mistletoe Leaves. Historia included some historical matter, but as Campbell admitted, this was secondary to the real purpose of soliciting donations for the society. Both the Leaves and Historia were created primarily to stimulate interest in the organization and not until the first issue of the Chronicles of Oklahoma in 1921, did the Society have a true historical journal.²⁴ Historia was a positive step however and it was instrumental in promoting the image of the organization and in encouraging growth.

The final eight years at the Carnegie Library were of major importance to the future of the organization because the custodian and his aide had the time to devote full attention to the organization. The first seven years there had

produced several organizational improvements with the early efforts to gain the valuable Indian records and the publication of Historia being the most worthwhile achievements. The stability in leadership created a relatively calm environment which enabled growth to be accomplished without discord. In one respect, this was a calm before the storm, because the years spent at the next location were hampered by internal conflicts. The years from 1909-1917 may best be characterized as a period of "quiet accomplishment."

Correspondence to and from the Society during these years relates the day-to-day life of the organization and reflects the determination of the directors to build for the future. It is also interesting to note the type of letters which various individuals sent to the society. One, dated October 25, 1909, requested verification on a location of a hill near the Cimarron River, which appeared in a painting called "Buffalo Hunt by Indians." Several old Osage Indians claimed that it was known as "Red Hill" and the man wanted verification from the Society. A letter to Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma, dated March 23, 1910, mentioned the efforts to secure the records of the Five Civilized Tribes to be placed in the historical society. It stated, "These records are, I believe, at the Union Agency in Muskogee, boxed. In these there is so much of essential history pertaining to the East half of this state that they should remain here." The officers believed that even if

the society did not obtain them, it should at least have access to them, to "digest" the key historical data.²⁵

On April 22, 1914, Campbell wrote to Joseph Thoburn, who was at that time an instructor of research at the University of Oklahoma, in regard to an article on the Historical Society, which had appeared in the Daily Oklahoman. The article read, "Keeping the collection intact has proved a difficult undertaking, owing to the fact that various state educational institutions have at different times sought to get possession of the valuable collection of documents and relics." Campbell, who had a friendly association with Thoburn at this time, wanted to clear the air and make the point that he had "nothing whatever to do in preparing the article."²⁶

In September 1916, the custodian wrote to "Mr. Walter Thomas Mills, Author," in Altus, providing him with a cover copy of an issue of Historia and an autobiographical card to be filled out. Campbell explained that a primary object of the institution was to gather, then place on file, data on leading individuals of Oklahoma, to provide a permanent record for the future. Campbell managed to cleverly mention the objectives of Historia and also provide free publicity for the organization.²⁷

Many letters preserved in the Society show that during these years numerous individuals were becoming aware of the goals of the institution, and were coming to recognize

its value in historical matters. People with questions in regard to their heritage wrote to the Historical Society. It responded by making an effort to secure valuable historic records, while compiling current data for the future. The Society was more open and its purpose better defined than before.

Another of the many valuable institutional records still preserved in the society is a ledger book which deals with the Carnegie years. Campbell was not a master book-keeper, but he did clearly record the organizational business transactions in a simple, understandable manner. The staff size during this period consisted of the custodian and a file clerk and not until 1917 were more people employed in the organization. The monthly salaries for June 1910 were \$100.00 for Campbell and \$40.00 for the assistant, Edith Kneen. Available appropriations for the fiscal year from July 1, 1910 to July 1, 1911, were still at the 1895 level of \$2,000.00. A few individual cost items for this period were \$3.00 for 1,000 letterheads and \$2.25 for 1,000 envelopes; telephone service from July 17 to October 1, \$12.20; express on books from Columbus, Ohio, 35¢; express on books from Chicago, 60¢; and freight, drayage on files from Guthrie, \$5.62.²⁸

The appropriation had only increased to \$3,600.00 by the fiscal year 1915-1916, and by March 1916, during the last full year in the Carnegie Library, the balance

was \$1,482.04. Salaries had increased to \$135.00 for the custodian and to \$60.00 for the assistant. A few cost examples were, monthly telephone service, \$4.10; lumber for shelving, \$2.80; binding for 64 newspapers, \$64.00; binding for 84 magazines, \$71.40; and 100 paper boxes, \$10.00.²⁹ In all, the appropriations and salaries had not improved much since 1902, while costs were increasing and the collection was rapidly growing. President Sipes was able to work with the legislature to gain some financial improvements, but the lawmakers were slow in their actions.

Accompanying the continuing financial difficulties was the problem of overcrowding. When the library was remodeled in 1907, the Society had been given more space in which to operate, but as the collection grew, the accommodations became increasingly inadequate. The Society had spent nearly two decades in the public library and during the final years there crowding of materials had increased to a point that the organization had to rent storage rooms in other buildings to house much of the materials.³⁰ The problem was finally remedied in December 1917, when the Historical Society made its third extended move to the recently completed State Capitol building.

The move to the Oklahoma State Capitol on December 17, 1917, was inevitable because the legislative acts of February 1901 made clear provisions that the historical institution and its property were to be housed in the Territorial Capitol

building, whenever it was constructed.³¹ The situation, of course, had changed markedly since that time because the territory had become a state and Oklahoma City had replaced Guthrie as the capital. Oklahoma City became the center of political activity, and the Historical Society, though a move to another building was to come in 1930, at least had found a permanent city for its location.

Construction on the Capitol building began on July 20, 1914, and was completed, except for a dome, on June 30, 1917. The Historical Society was provided spacious quarters in the basement and it was estimated that there was ample expansion room for six to eight years at least, but the estimate later proved inaccurate.³² This move became a blessing of the mixed variety with a blend of some progress and much conflict. In the first place, the basement was also a proper financial description because even though the institution gradually received more appropriations than ever before, it still received less than other state agencies. Several new employees were added during this period and new leaders eventually replaced the old, but in the process, several personality clashes developed.

It was the personality dynamics which were so important to these years in the life of the organization and the key individuals ranged from the board level to that of the employees. The Historical Society first added historians to its ranks during this period, and four of

Oklahoma's most enduring historical researchers and writers-- Joseph Thoburn, Grant Foreman, Muriel H. Wright and Edward Everett Dale--became involved in the organization. On the leadership level, Thomas H. Doyle first became a Director in 1917, Charles F. Colcord was elected President in 1926 and Judge Robert L. Williams emerged to take complete control. To accompany the new faces, the old familiar institutional pillars Jasper Sipes and William P. Campbell remained for a few more years of service. With this blend of the old and the new, it is not surprising that conflicts arose.

The year 1921 is a proper starting point for discussion of the State Capitol years because the previous three years were overshadowed by the First World War. Various projects such as cataloging the large number of library holdings were postponed until adequate funds were available. By this time, the collection had grown too large to be adequately managed by just two people, therefore a long overdue increase in staff size was made and this represented the significance of the years prior to 1921. Edith Kneen remained as an assistant to the custodian and a Mr. Miller was hired as "extra help" according to Campbell's records for 1918. Wayne Campbell (the custodian's son) was hired in 1917,³³ and Czarina Conlan joined the staff as Field Director in 1919. The most significant appointment was Joseph Thoburn, first hired in 1917 as Research Assistant and elevated to Secretary in January 1919.³⁴

A milestone in the life of the organization and in historical writing in Oklahoma occurred in January of 1921 when the first issue of the institutional journal, Chronicles of Oklahoma appeared. Unlike the previous publications, Mistletoe Leaves and Historia, the Chronicles was developed primarily for historical content, and it provided the medium by which articles on the Indian, the West, and the many aspects of Oklahoma's heritage could be produced. It was this development which first introduced E. E. Dale into the affairs of the Society, when he was selected as the initial associate editor. The development of the Chronicles also produced tension which, on the surface, appeared to be between the Society and the University of Oklahoma, but in reality, was between the editor and assistant editor James Buchanan, E. E. Dale, and Thoburn. This conflict, coupled with financial difficulties, caused early problems, but the journal survived to become a written extension of the Historical Society and the state it represented.³⁵

The dominant force in the institution emerging at this time was Robert Lee Williams. Born on December 20, 1868, in Alabama, Williams never forgot his deep pride in the heritage of the South, and through the pages of books, he had developed a lifelong appreciation of history. After the completion of his Bachelor's Degree at Southern University, he began studies in law and on May 9, 1891, joined the law firm of Colonel William S. Thorington, who was

regarded as one of the South's most prestigious lawyers.

In that same year, Williams was admitted to the bar.³⁶

In 1893, Williams came to Oklahoma and was involved in the run for the Cherokee Outlet. In later years, and with statehood imminent, he put his legal skills to work and helped write some of the provisions of the Oklahoma constitution. Following statehood, he served on the Oklahoma Supreme Court and later became the first chief justice of that body. From 1915 to 1919, Williams served as the state's third governor and was an instrumental force behind the construction of the Capitol building. In 1919, he became United States District Judge and in 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt named him to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Judicial District. It was during the years as a federal judge that Williams became so actively involved in the Historical Society and it was largely through his efforts that a new building for the institution became a reality.³⁷

The Historical Society received out-of-state attention when it hosted the 16th annual session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in March of 1923. The three-day convention was held at the Huckins Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City, and it was the first session ever to be held in a Western state. Nearly 500 members of the history profession, representing twenty states, were in attendance providing a rare opportunity for institutional exposure.

The highlight of the convention however, were historical tours revealing Oklahoma sites which gave the delegates a first-hand view of the state's Indian and Western heritage. The members were given a choice of two tours, the first of which covered the northeastern section and the second was in the western part of the state.³⁸

The visit to the abandoned Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Agency at Darlington was significant because several of the delegates voiced their opinion that the state should make a serious effort to preserve the site as a historical landmark. Thoburn, who was tour supervisor, spoke of the history of the agency and voiced a similar opinion on the need to improve the conditions at the site. At the close of the convention, Solon J. Buck of the Minnesota Historical Society declared that the Oklahoma session had been one of the most successful and praised the efforts of the historical society and the state.³⁹ The session, besides providing a boost for the local economy as well as needed exposure for the institution and the state, gave the members of the Historical Society a unique learning experience, an opportunity to exchange ideas.

The episode at the Darlington Agency reflected the gradual awareness of the need to preserve historic sites in Oklahoma which, as the years progressed, became an increasingly important addition to the functions of the Historical Society. Previously, the institution had

responsibility only to serve as a repository for collecting and preserving historical materials. Therefore historic sites were left to deteriorate. While on the faculty at the University of Oklahoma, Joseph Thoburn was the first to actively investigate prehistoric sites in the state, one of which was the Big Mouth Cavern near Grove. Beginning in the 1920's, Muriel Wright led in an attempt to study and investigate prehistoric and historic locations in Oklahoma, and both she and Thoburn were involved with others in an effort to include this work within the scope of the Society. Though the early efforts were slow, they represented the first step in the development of historic preservation in Oklahoma.⁴⁰

In 1923, the Society received a considerable increase in funding with the amount for fiscal year 1923-24 reaching \$17,650.00, as compared to \$4,650.00 for 1921-22. Thoburn as secretary pushed hard for adequate staffing and an appropriation of \$18,000 per year, in addition to the establishment of a special committee to work directly with the legislature in financial matters regarding the organization. President Sipes refused to form such a committee, therefore Thoburn suspected that Sipes and Czarina Conlan wanted to deal with the lawmakers personally and thus have absolute control over the institutional budget.⁴¹ Whatever ill-feelings developed, the Society at least had a larger budget, though not large enough to accomplish Thoburn's goals.

The Society had experienced several changes since moving into the capitol and with more room for growth, plus the addition of new personalities, the organization was expanding in every department. W. P. Campbell again became a victim of changing circumstances and his functions and influence were on a decline. The Chronicles represented a new direction in the type of publication for the institution and in the process, Campbell's Historia became a thing of the past--another historical item for preservation. When Joseph Thoburn was elevated to the position of secretary in 1919, the scope of his duties exceeded the custodian's and caused a lasting strain in their relationship.⁴² Age was the biggest enemy to Campbell and by the year 1924, he was gradually being brushed aside.

On May 4, 1924, the old custodian died and an era in the life of the Historical Society was ended. Campbell was the founder of the institution and he devoted twenty-two years to its growth and development. He single-handedly pushed the organization off the ground, providing the initial guidelines and constantly worked to secure valuable historical records on Oklahoma's past. He laid the foundation and built upon it--he was the father of the Oklahoma Historical Society.⁴³

Campbell was the first and last custodian because, following his death, that position was replaced by the secretary. Thoburn served in that capacity until February, 1926,

when he became Director of Research. J. Y. Bryce, who had served as a minister in Indian Territory, later becoming a newspaper editor and publisher, succeeded Thoburn as secretary and remained in that position until 1930. He also served the Society as editor of the Chronicles (to which he also contributed several significant articles), and conducted a survey of Oklahoma historical sites. His efforts produced a wealth of historical information on the state, and added to his material for the book, History of Methodism in Oklahoma.⁴⁴

Another important development was the election of Dr. Grant Foreman of Muskogee to the Board of Directors on February 5, 1924. Foreman was becoming one of the respected historians in the field of Indian history, mostly on the Five Civilized Tribes, and his involvement in the Society did much to expand its resources in aboriginal documentation. He also became involved in an ongoing conflict with another resident historian, Joseph Thoburn.⁴⁵

With the larger accommodations in the Capitol, the Society was becoming more departmentalized, with significant growth occurring within each separate area. Though the Indian Archives did not become a separate department until 1929, there was a strong effort mounting in the mid-1920's to secure records of the Five Civilized Tribes and documents relating to the Dawes Commission. Robert L. Williams and Foreman were the main forces behind this effort and

their eventual success not only provided the institution with valuable papers on the history of the tribes, but it was the first step in establishing the Oklahoma Historical Society as one of the foremost repositories for Indian records in the nation.⁴⁶

The collection of newspapers and books was basic to the purpose behind the Historical Society, therefore the newspaper department and the library developed into major institutional divisions, each experiencing a constant rate of growth. The newspaper collection increased to nearly 10,000 bound volumes (not counting the many volumes which were not bound) by the year 1925, and the papers were arriving from throughout the state at a steady pace. During the 1924-25 year, the library spent \$1,300.00 for the purchase of books and contained approximately 4,500 volumes among its resources by the year 1925. Improvements in the catalog system, which had been made a few years previously, provided a better working system to meet the demands of increased public use.⁴⁷

Of all the departments, the museum section underwent the greatest change. Through the years, the Society received a vast amount of "museum items," many of which contained historical value and many which did not. Therefore these materials piled up in the midst of the other collections, resulting in terrible overcrowding. Thoburn called it a "junk shop" and he along with others made a serious attempt

to remedy the situation, and the effort proved successful. In 1919, a number of valuable items, including artifacts from Thoburn's earlier excavations, were obtained from the museum at the University of Oklahoma, then incorporated into the exhibits at the Society. An important acquisition was made in 1922, when the museum received an old Concord stagecoach from the 101 Ranch near Ponca City.⁴⁸

A letter written in 1923 from a member of the State Historical Society of Missouri complimented the Society on the "complete character of the museum collection" and expressed surprise at its quality. By 1925, the museum arrangement had improved significantly, with the items grouped into five general subject areas--archaeology, ethnology, history of Oklahoma, history of the United States, and miscellaneous. The improved museum presented a more accurate representation of the state's heritage and the frontiers which were basic to its development. Unfortunately, the museum's success was hampered because the problem of overcrowding had once again become a reality.⁴⁹

The problem not only affected the museum, it was an institutional problem as well. Thoburn's letter to Governor Robertson in 1922 clearly reflected the situation when he mentioned that the quarters in the capitol were badly overcrowded after only five years. Some additional space was provided, but it was not enough and within a very short time, the collection had once again become congested.

There was much talk concerning the need for a historical building, but talk was all that it amounted to because the legislature was simply not willing to fund an historical building.⁵⁰

Funding had always been the thorn in the institution's side, and a letter written by Thoburn to Senator M. F. Ingraham in 1921 represents the frustration that every individual of the society must have felt throughout their years of service. Thoburn carefully noted general appropriations had been increased by nearly twelve percent, while the amount for the Historical Society was cut more than forty percent, which resulted in the lay-off of half the staff and placed the secretary on half-duty, at half the salary. He closed the letter by stating, "a majority of both houses were willing to 'retrench' on the Historical Society, while boosting the appropriations for other institutions which are of more local, if not more questionable, value to the state and its people."⁵¹

A yearly increase in appropriation, to meet the continuous growth which was occurring in every department of the Society, simply did not happen. The amount of \$17,650.00 which was provided for the years 1923-24 dropped to \$15,000.00 in 1925-26, with the same figure for 1926-27. By comparison, the Society was receiving far less financial support than similar organizations in other states. A comparative example for 1925-26 shows that the Oklahoma Historical Society

received \$15,000.00; Wisconsin \$88,900.00; Minnesota \$61,500.00; Iowa \$167,700.00 and Colorado \$32,133.30. As the years progressed however, the legislature did provide a much larger appropriation, with the amount reaching \$38,500.00 in 1927-28 and the same amount for 1928-29.⁵²

In January 1926, Jasper Sipes retired as president of the Historical Society, but he continued to support its growth and held the position of president-emeritus until his death in 1941.⁵³ His influence was crucial to the needs of the institution and through his efforts the Society received at least some funding improvements. The man who succeeded Sipes as president was another of Oklahoma City's leaders--Charles Francis Colcord.

The life story of Charles Colcord was an American West saga. Born in Bourbon County, Kentucky in 1859, later moving to Texas with his family, he arrived in Oklahoma at age seventeen, driving horses up the Chisholm Trail. In April 1889, he made the land run and first came to Oklahoma City, where he eventually became a force behind the young city's growth. He served as a policeman, chief of police, and later the first elected sheriff of Oklahoma County. In 1892, he was appointed deputy United States marshal for the district of the Cherokee Outlet, in which capacity he served for ten years.⁵⁴

Colcord returned to Oklahoma City in 1902, embarking on a successful oil venture in 1903. His leadership was

instrumental in the reorganization of the Oklahoma City Commercial Club into the Chamber of Commerce. In the banking business, he served as the first president of the Commercial National Bank and later director of the First National Bank and Trust Company. Colcord's involvement in the Historical Society began in 1921 when he became a life member, then director, and finally President in 1926. Two monuments in Oklahoma City represent his years of service to the city and Historical Society he served--the twelve-story Colcord building downtown and the Historical building.⁵⁵

The Society's female employees and board members included Czarina Conlan, an active leader in women's state civic clubs for many years, who organized the first women's club in Indian Territory in 1896. She was also the first woman to be elected to a public school board in Oklahoma. In 1919, Conlan was first employed with the Historical Society and served 25 years as museum curator.⁵⁶

Anna B. Korn served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society from 1922-1947, then was re-elected to another five-year term in 1947. She was appointed to the committee working for the appropriation to secure a historical building, then to the committee to supervise its construction in 1929. Her service to the state included drafting the law which observed the birthday of Oklahoma statehood, November 16. Korn organized "The Oklahoma Memorial Association" and established the Oklahoma

Hall of Fame in the State Capitol on September 27, 1927.⁵⁷

Alice Mary Robertson, the first congresswoman to be elected from Oklahoma, joined the staff of the Historical Society in 1927 as a research assistant. Among her earlier accomplishments, she established Nuyaka Mission near Okmulgee and later was in charge of a boarding school for Indian girls, which developed into Henry Kendall College, finally the University of Tulsa. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt named her postmaster at Muskogee, a position she held until 1913. During World War I, she made a special effort to provide food, coffee and other necessities for the soldiers who passed through Muskogee. From March 1921 to March 1923, she served as a Republican Representative to the Sixty-Seventh Congress. Her employment with the Historical Society extended from 1927-1929.⁵⁸

The last years in the Capitol building were marked by improved economic conditions, new developments, and the employment of two outstanding individuals--Rella Watts (later Rella Looney), and Muriel H. Wright. Appropriations reached \$38,500.00 for the period 1927-28, with allocations for salaries, maintenance and markers, totaling \$18,000.00 yearly. A yearly sum of \$15,000.00 was provided for data and research on the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, with an additional \$17,500.00 to cover the purchase of new equipment for each of those periods.⁵⁹

Senate Joint Resolution No. 36 provided that the

Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma Education Association, and other patriotic societies receive funding to erect permanent markers at historic sites throughout Oklahoma. It also authorized and directed the State Board of Affairs and the State Reformatory to provide those markers to the Historical Society at prices not exceeding production and delivery costs.⁶⁰ With this resolution, the Society expanded its responsibilities and began the process of designating and preserving state historic sites.

The year 1929 marked establishment of the department of Indian Archives. In an effort to gain the valuable records of the Five Civilized Tribes and Dawes Commission, which were housed at Muskogee, Grant Foreman submitted a resolution before the Society board on February 1, 1927. The resolution called for the addition of those records to the Archives of the historical institution, which was approved. In 1928, the board approved the employment of an Archivist to classify and arrange the tribal documents at Muskogee, and on September 9, 1929, the Department of the Indian Archives began to function.⁶¹

Rella Watts was hired by the directors on September 9, 1929, to travel to Muskogee and classify the multitude of Indian records. Originally appointed for a two-year period, she worked with the records for five years then accompanied their transfer to Oklahoma City. She eventually became the first Archivist for the Indian collection and through

her many years of guidance, the Society emerged as one of the finest repositories for Indian records in the United States, second only to the National Archives.⁶² In that same year, Muriel H. Wright was employed with the Society and over the next five decades, her name became synonymous with the institution and its journal, The Chronicles of Oklahoma.

Finally, the year 1929 was important for the writing of Oklahoma history and to the future of the Historical Society. First, Joseph Thoburn and Muriel Wright completed their multi-volume history, Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People, and secondly, the legislature appropriated \$500,000 for the construction of a historical building on the Capitol grounds. The Society, its directors, staff and possessions no longer had to endure the continual threat of relocation.⁶³

⁶² Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 9; Paul F. Lambert, Joseph M. Thoburn, Pioneer Historian and Archaeologist (Oklahoma City: Southern Heritage Books, Inc., 1967), p. 58.

⁶³ Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," pp. 3, 18; "Sidney Clark Custodian," Daily Oklahoman 24 March 1902, p. 5; Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, pp. 3, 9.

⁶⁴ Thomas H. Coyle, Moore, and Thoburn, "William Parker Campbell," Chronicles of Oklahoma 2 (June 1924):95.

⁶⁵ Id.

⁶⁶ Robert L. Williams, "Jasper Stipes, 1800-1841," Chronicles of Oklahoma 20 (December 1942):319-330.

CHAPTER III

ENDNOTES

¹Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 8.

²"Act Relating to the Oklahoma Historical Society," 7 February 1901, Clarke Collection, University of Oklahoma; Ibid., 20 February 1901.

³Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 8.

⁴Thoburn to Breckinridge, 14 September 1939, p. 5, Folder OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵Mrs. J. C. Parker, "Oklahoma Libraries," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine, July 1908, pp. 73-74.

⁶Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 3.

⁷Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, p. 9; Paul F. Lambert, Joseph B. Thoburn: Pioneer Historian and Archaeologist (Oklahoma City: Western Heritage Books, Inc., 1980), p. 58.

⁸Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," pp. 3, 19; "Sidney Clarke Custodian," Daily Oklahoman 29 March 1903, p. 5; Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, pp. 8, 9.

⁹Thomas H. Doyle, Moore, and Thoburn, "William Parker Campbell," Chronicles of Oklahoma 2 (June 1924):95.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Robert L. Williams, "Jasper Sipes, 1860-1941," Chronicles of Oklahoma 20 (December 1942):319-320.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Campbell, Review of Inception and Progress, pp. 3-17.

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 9-10.

¹⁵Ibid., pp. 30-82.

¹⁶Thoburn, History of the Oklahoma Press Association, Organization of a Joint Territorial Association; Indian Territory, Oklahoma Press Association Reports, 1895-1919 (Perry: Noble County Sentinel Print, 1895), Official Report of the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Press Association, El Reno, August 16, 17, 1895, p. 9.

¹⁷Thoburn, History of the Oklahoma Press Association, The First Press Association Meeting in the State; Oklahoma Press Association Meeting, 1893; "Statehood Day, 1907," Vertical Files, Library Resources Division, Oklahoma Historical Society. Hereafter cited as VF., Library, Oklahoma Historical Society.

¹⁸Presidential Proclamation, November 16, 1907, VF. Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, FF. Oklahoma--Statehood Proclamation.

¹⁹William P. Campbell, Oklahoma Historical Society, Custodian's Report 1907-08, p. 2.

²⁰Ibid., p. 3.

²¹Ibid., pp. 4-5.

²²Oklahoma Historical Letters, 1905-1908, Misc. M.F. 201, Library Resources Division, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²³Campbell, Custodian's Report, 1907-08, p. 6.

²⁴Williams, "Territorial Magazines," Chronicles of Oklahoma 29 (Winter 1951):492; Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (Autumn 1948):326-27.

²⁵Oklahoma Historical Letters, 1909-1911, Misc. M.F. 202, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society

²⁶Daily Oklahoman, 22 April 1914, p. 33; Letter from Campbell to Thoburn, No Date, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²⁷Oklahoma Historical Letters, 1916-1921, Misc. M.F. 203, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²⁸Thoburn to Governor Robertson, September 27, 1922, OK-2, p. v, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society; Ledger Book - Custodian, pp. 41-46. No publication date.

²⁹Johnson, "Oklahoma Historical Society," p. 6; Ledger Book - Custodian, pp. 86-87.

³⁰Thoburn to Governor Robertson, September 27, 1922, OK-2, p. 2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2, p. 6; Ibid.

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³³Ledger Book - Custodian, p. 116.

³⁴Lambert, Joseph B. Thoburn, pp. 58-66.

³⁵Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (Autumn 1948):328; Lambert, Joseph B. Thoburn, pp. 66-67.

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CHAPTER IV

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CHRONICLES

When the first issue of the Chronicles of Oklahoma appeared in January 1921, it was the third separate publication to be developed by the Oklahoma Historical Society staff, but it bore no resemblance to its predecessors, Historical Leaves and Historia. Quality content in Chronicles was crucial because it represented the Historical Society throughout the state and across the nation. It has related and interpreted the many historical aspects of Oklahoma's heritage and reflected changes which occurred in the institution. The society outgrew the format of the earlier publications, therefore the Chronicles emerged as the journal which represented the institution.¹

The evolution into the Chronicles was slow (twenty-eight years) and often difficult, but it survived. Historical Leaves as well as Historia were both the product of a single man for the purpose of institutional promotion. W. P. Campbell was not a historian, therefore history was secondary to his purpose of stimulating interest and support for the organization. The Chronicles on the other hand, was

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developed by several individuals who placed primary emphasis on historical studies, which enhanced the reputation of the society.²

Campbell, a self-taught man, did not use a scholarly approach to the publications he produced, relying instead on his own practicality and common sense. Because of his newspaper experience, the format of the Leaves resembled a small town newspaper, filled with informational items, "editorial" comments, and advertising for the organization. Whatever his limitations in scholarly approach, he compensated with determination, hard work, and a remarkable sense of timing. Circular One was sent out in May 1893 to state the goals of the institution and solicit donations, followed by the first issue of the Leaves in August 1893.³

In that first issue Campbell stated, "Please accept receipt of the Mistletoe as an invitation to send your publication for filing with the Historical Society." He was honest and direct in his approach, always asking for contributions of newspapers, periodicals, and other items of historical interest, at the same time giving credit to donors. Campbell's means of obtaining materials for the institution were straight-forward, relatively simple and successful. The initial collections of the Historical Society were gained through Campbell's practical way of doing business and the Mistletoe Leaves was his voice.⁴

The basic format of the Leaves remained the same.

Each edition contained a list of acquisitions and the names of individual or institutional contributors; an account of newspapers on file, noting missing issues; information on other state historical societies; and items relating to Oklahoma and Oklahoma personalities. Campbell also included information on prominent citizens who in turn might be of benefit to the society, including Frank McMasters, Abraham J. Seay, and J. V. Admire. In several of the later editions, railroad time tables were provided as a service to the public and, beginning with the August 12, 1893 issue, the Leaves contained a section called "Poseygraphs," a collection of poems.⁵

Though Mistletoe Leaves provided a stimulus to the organization, it was Campbell's project. Therefore, when he resigned in 1895, the publication ceased. It was unfortunate that neither the officers at Norman nor at the early Carnegie-based society at Oklahoma City took the initiative to continue the Leaves or develop a historic magazine. In fact, a period of fourteen years elapsed between the final issue of the Mistletoe Leaves in 1895 and the first publication of Historia (its successor) on September 15, 1909. W. P. Campbell, who had returned as custodian in 1904, launched that second publication for the same reasons which had guided the first, to promote the society and stimulate its growth.⁶

Though Historia evolved from the Leaves and was

similar in purpose, it represented a vast improvement over the earlier pamphlet. Developed as a quarterly which ran four pages in the first issue, eight pages in later issues, and finally as many as sixteen pages in the later years, the publication was better in quantity of size and quality of content. Campbell also included more articles on history-related topics, which though not as extensive or numerous as would appear in the Chronicles, they represented progress toward a true historical journal. The most important aspect of Historia was that the society needed a publication to promote its growth and no individual other than Campbell attempted to meet that need.⁷

The first issue of Historia followed nearly the same format as the Leaves, with names of publications received by the society, acquisitions, bulletins and informational items, but it expanded with later editions. Included in the issue for September 1, 1910, was a small article on the early days of western Oklahoma by Ben Clark, and under the heading "A Glimpse of I. T. Times Gone By," the custodian borrowed from the letter file of the society to give the readers an idea of experiences in Indian Territory. In fact, articles relating to Oklahoma's Indian heritage appeared throughout the pages of Historia, with titles ranging from "Cherokee Marital Laws" and "The Pottawatomie Creed"⁸ to "Among the Osages" and "Indian Legendary Lore."⁹

Other significant contributions on the subject of

Oklahoma history included "First Opening" and "Sam Houston in Indian Territory" by Campbell,¹⁰ "Oklahoma Territory Supreme Court," "Among the Old Settlers Filed in Payne County" and many others. Historia definitely improved with age and the later issues were organized and better written but the bulk of material was still devoted to the institution and its acquisitions. Campbell never changed the focus of his journal, and offered no new direction. As long as the society was under his direct leadership Historia was unchallenged, but with new leaders a change of direction was definitely in store.¹¹

Institutional change ended the life of Historia, as well as Campbell's personal brand of institutional publication. Robert L. Williams and Joseph Thoburn of the Historical Society, with James S. Buchanan and Edward Everett Dale of the University of Oklahoma, were the key individuals behind that change, and through their efforts, the Chronicles was born. At first Campbell refused to give up on Historia (the last issue was July 1, 1922), so the two publications briefly overlapped, but he eventually lost the publishing battle to the new historical journal.¹²

Early in 1920, the society honored Campbell with a loving cup to commemorate his role as founder of the institution and for his many years of service to its continued growth. In retrospect, the occasion resembled the traditional gold watch ceremony which thanked him for his years of

devotion, while at the same time hinting that those services were no longer needed. The following May, the board accepted a recommendation to begin a new publication for the society, with a completely different format and under new direction.¹³

The Chronicles of Oklahoma was the third publication of the Historical Society, but it evolved a totally different character from its predecessors. In the introduction for the inaugural issue of January, 1921, under the heading "Chronicles of Oklahoma," these words were printed: "It is the purpose of the management to devote its pages to phases of Oklahoma history which will be a real contribution to historical knowledge." The introduction continued, "The management of the Chronicles invites contributions from every source of early history, incidents and traditions which should be recorded and made a part of our history. Diaries, manuscripts, correspondence of the early period will be welcomed, edited and given a place in the pages of the Chronicles." Finally, the editors added, "If the people in the state will co-operate with the management in contributing what they can collect in their locality we can make the Chronicles a valuable instrument for collecting and transmitting to others our important history."¹⁴

If one man above all others deserves credit for the concept and development of the Chronicles, it was Williams. Already becoming a strong force on the board of directors,

he worked with Thoburn to secure the necessary approval at the board meeting in May 1920. A publications committee of James S. Buchanan, Arthur N. Leecraft, and Williams as chairman was selected to manage the project and decide on the editorship of the journal. Initially, Williams called the journal a historical chronicle, with Buchanan to serve as editor and the head of the journalism department of the University of Oklahoma to be assistant editor, but the plans were slightly altered. The title of course became Chronicles of Oklahoma (later The Chronicles of Oklahoma), and Assistant Professor Edward Everett Dale of the University of Oklahoma became associate editor, but Buchanan did agree to serve as editor.¹⁵

James Buchanan was born in Franklin, Tennessee, on October 14, 1864. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Cumberland University, and completed graduate work at Vanderbilt and the University of Chicago. He came to Oklahoma Territory in 1894, serving as history professor at Central State Teachers College. In 1895 he became professor of history at the University of Oklahoma and in 1909 was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in which capacity he served as editor of the Chronicles. Buchanan later served as president of the University from 1923-25, and finally became vice-president from 1925 until his death in 1930.¹⁶

It was upon Buchanan's recommendation that Edward

Everett Dale first became involved with the Historical Society as associate editor of the Chronicles. Born on February 8, 1879, at Kellar, Texas, young Dale had first-hand experience with the life and excitement of the West. Wishing to add formal education to his personal experiences, he first attended Central State Teachers College at Edmond and received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1911. In 1914, Dale received his Master's Degree from Harvard, then later, he earned his doctorate from the same institution. While at Harvard, he studied under the distinguished Frederick Jackson Turner. Though his greater works were still ahead, he had completed some books before 1921, including Territorial Acquisitions of the United States (privately printed, 1912) and Tales of the Tepee, 1919.¹⁷

With historians such as Buchanan and Dale from the university, Thoburn from the Historical Society and Williams' active interest in history, there were strong forces behind the establishment of the Chronicles. Its development was not a smooth one however, and a conflict soon developed over the control of the journal, resulting in ill-feelings which in many respects never abated. By 1918, Thoburn had formed a distrust of the history department at the University of Oklahoma and his feelings grew progressively worse. When Buchanan and Dale were named editors of the Chronicles, he felt both personally slighted and very suspicious that the university might gain complete control over historical

publications in the state.¹⁸

The unfortunate consequence of the conflict was that several remarks were made by Thoburn, which he later regretted. He mentioned Buchanan's advance at the University, "where the hard and fast rules of seniority" served to make him dean. He also noted that Buchanan was, "something of a feudist in that he never forgives or forgets." Thoburn's comments toward Dale were very harsh, because in effect, he accused Dale of succeeding because he was merely a follower, rather than possessing any real stamina or ability. Thoburn later tried to reconcile his comments by praising the efforts of both men, but the damage was done and Dale never really forgave him. In later years, while writing the biography of Robert L. Williams with James D. Morrison, Dale stated, "Thoburn, secretary of the society, felt that as a former newspaper man he must undoubtedly know more about editing and publishing such a journal than did the two men named as editors. In this he was probably correct but he was tactless in his manner of offering suggestions."¹⁹

During the problems over the editorship of the Chronicles, Thoburn caused the first rift between himself and Williams, and over the course of the next ten years, they were continuously at odds with each other. In defense of Thoburn, he was wrong in his comments, but probably right in his reservations about the editorial makeup of the journal. He felt that a representative from the Historical Society

should be included, but Williams felt otherwise, thereby re-enforcing Thoburn's concern that the university might have absolute control. Thoburn believed in the concept of the Chronicles and he did not block its advance, becoming one of its greatest supporters and later contributing a number of articles, especially on Oklahoma's prehistory. Though he lacked tact, he was a professional.

Williams was strong-willed and forceful and he usually succeeded in accomplishing his goals. His efforts in the development of the Chronicles were no exception. He outlined the program for the journal and expected volume one, number one to be out by March, 1920, but that proved to be impossible. At that time, Dale was at Harvard, and both he and Buchanan expected a full teaching load for the summer session. Therefore the first issue was delayed until January, 1921. The first issue compared favorably with publications of other Western historical societies. Williams was pleased with the content and wrote to Thoburn that it was a "fine start," and that every future effort should be made to make each issue better than the one before.²⁰

Volume one, number one of the Chronicles was 110 pages in length and several of the articles were more than double the size of an entire issue of Historia. The listing of officers included Jasper Sipes, President; Anton H. Classen and Thomas H. Doyle, Vice-Presidents; Joseph B. Thoburn, Secretary; Frank J. Wykoff, Treasurer; and William P. Campbell

Custodian. Among the articles was a four-page piece entitled "A Sequoyah Centennial," followed by "The Separation of Nebraska and Kansas From the Indian Territory" by Roy Gittinger. Edward Everett Dale wrote a lengthy article titled "Some Letters of General Stand Watie," Morris L. Wardell contributed "The History of No-Man's Land, or Old Beaver County." Finally, an article called "The Cheyenne Dog Soldiers" by W. S. Campbell, was followed by a section of book reviews and one on historical news items. It was clear that the new institutional journal was to be devoted almost entirely to historical studies.²¹

The editors quickly prepared number two of volume one, and hopes were running high that it was to be better than the first. On January 20, 1921, Dale wrote a letter in regard to securing an article on the Albert Pike Highway, and he also noted that the second number was to go to press by March 15 of that year. Dale was premature in his estimate, for although they managed to have it ready in April, funding problems delayed printing of the second issue until October, 1921. In fact, lack of funds represented a major threat to the journal, and it not only delayed the second issue, it also caused a reduction in size. On June 21, 1921, Thoburn wrote to W. M. Dunn that "the financial condition of the Historical Society is such that the publication of Chronicles will have to be suspended for the time being." The Legislature "retrenched" on the Historical Society to

the extent of \$5,000. Other institutions escaped retrenchment. Only the Historical Society had to endure economy.²²

When number two was finally issued in October of 1921, Buchanan and Dale remained editor and associate editor, with Joseph Thoburn as managing editor. Under the heading "Announcement," it was mentioned that the Chronicles was to have been issued on a regular basis each quarter, but the lack of funds had forced a delay. The editors also noted that it would appear regularly hereafter, though at a reduced size until adequate funding was secured. By the provisions of the Society's constitution, the Chronicles was to be issued under the guidance of a standing committee composed of the secretary and two members.²³

At the beginning of the October issue under the heading "Chronicles of Oklahoma," several important announcements were made in regard to the Historical Society. Noted was the fact that the amount of research work in the library for 1921 greatly exceeded that of any previous year and the overall research being conducted within the institution was encouraging. The editors also mentioned the overcrowded conditions in the Capitol, with a comment that "proper and reasonable housing for the Oklahoma Historical Society and its collections promises to be a live issue henceforth." Funding for other state agencies for 1921 was approximately twelve percent higher than for 1919, while support for the Historical Society was cut more than forty percent below

the amount for the previous two-year period. The editorial concluded with a report that local historical societies had recently been established in Tulsa and Muskogee.²⁴

The reduction in size of the Chronicles was evident, not only were the articles shorter than those in the previous issue, but the entire length from cover to cover was only 45 pages. Included was an article by Allen Wright on the Wheelock Seminary and one titled "The Paternity of Sequoyah the Inventor of the Cherokee Alphabet," by Albert Goodpasture. Under the title "Additional Letters of General Stand Watie," E. E. Dale continued his effort from the January, 1921, issue. The final article was "The Flight of the Kickapoos" which listed no author.²⁵

Thoburn wrote officials in the Library of Congress in November, 1921, to seek protection for the title, "Chronicles of Okalahoma." The Register of Copyrights informed him that the copyright law did not secure the exclusive right to use a "name or title except as a part of the work to which it is appended for identification." He added that protection could be secured for parts of the issues of the journal by publishing them with the word "copyright," followed by the date and name of the claimant. The society then had to furnish two copies of each issue to the copyright office at the Library of Congress. It was further suggested that Thoburn write to the Commissioner of Patents to register the name of the journal.²⁶

Because of lack of funds, volume one of the Chronicles was limited to three issues. As mentioned earlier, number one appeared in January, 1921, followed by number two in October of that year, but number three was not issued until June of 1923. During the delay, the only publication to come from the Historical Society for the year 1922 was, interestingly enough, Historia. Campbell's quarterly offered somewhat of a dilemma to the other officers because it was not an easy matter to approach the founder of the society, and to tell him that they preferred to publish the Chronicles. Campbell was too experienced to be pacified by the gift of a loving cup and he offered some initial resistance.²⁷

The old custodian continued to publish Historia and some of his best work appeared in those last issues. The terminal issue of July 1, 1922, was especially noteworthy because Campbell included a lengthy article on John Wilkes Booth under the heading "Oklahoma the Mecca for Men of Mystery." Campbell was able to publish Historia on a quarterly basis, while the Chronicles experienced early difficulties. In spite of the irregularity of publication, the quality of those first issues of the Chronicles made it clear which publication was destined to survive. The Chronicles had the support of the board and other officers, and everyone, including Campbell, knew that the publication of Historia was nearing an end.²⁸

When the third number of the Chronicles of Oklahoma

finally appeared in June, 1923, it was longer (123 pages) and superior to the previous two issues. James S. Buchanan and E. E. Dale were no longer the editors and under the title "Publication Committee" the names of C. W. Turner, Joseph B. Thoburn, and Emma A. Estill were listed. Thoburn had succeeded in playing an instrumental role in the journal's development, and the Oklahoma Historical Society, not the University of Oklahoma, had absolute control.²⁹

Number three contained the usual editorial section, a book review by Thoburn of "The Union Indian Brigade in the Civil War" by Wiley Britton, followed by a review of James Malone's The Chickasaw Nation, which was reviewed by Muriel Wright. Next the Oklahoma City session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association was highlighted, with a thorough account of that successful event. The research articles included "The Spirit of Soonerland" by Edward Everett Dale; "Comanche Civilization: History of Quahah Parker" by Daniel Becker, and "Reminiscences of the Washita Campaign" by John Murphy.³⁰

The Chronicles was becoming not only the institutional journal of the Historical Society, but one which spotlighted the historical significance of Oklahoma as well. Though the first number of volume two did not appear until March, 1924, the journal finally received the financial support to secure its publication on a regular quarterly basis. The Leaves and Historia were products of a single man. That

was not the case for the Chronicles because numerous individuals contributed to its establishment and growth. Talented writers including Thoburn, Dale, Grant Foreman and Carolyn Thomas Foreman, J. Y. Bryce, Angie Debo, and a host of others contributed significant articles during those first two decades of existence. One person, Muriel Wright, wrote extensively for the Chronicles and emerged as its longest-serving editor.

to H. L. Williams, January 15, 1920, Robert L. Williams Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Oklahoma Historical Society. Hereafter cited as Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society. All material for this paper came from Box 12, and labeled Oklahoma Historical Society, 1909-1949.

²Angie Debo, "Early Publications of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (Autumn 1948): 228.

³Thomas H. Doyle, Jennie B. Moore, and Joseph B. Thoburn, "William Parker Campbell," Chronicles of Oklahoma 2 (June 1924): 93-96; Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles 26: 225.

⁴William P. Campbell, Missouri Leaves, August 3, 1893, 2.

⁵Ibid., p. 1-4; Ibid., August 12, 1893, p. 1; Ibid., September 2, 1893, pp. 1-2.

⁶Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles 26 (Autumn 1948): 228.

⁷Examination of bound volume of Historia by this writer, which includes issues from September 18, 1909 to July 1, 1922 - noting slight increase.

⁸Historia 1 (September 1909): 1-4; Ibid., (September 1910): 2, 4; Ibid., 1 (July 1911): 5.

⁹Ibid., 2 (January 1912); Ibid., 2 (July 1912): 3.

CHAPTER IV

ENDNOTES

¹Thoburn to R. L. Williams, January 15, 1920, Robert L. Williams Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Oklahoma Historical Society. Hereafter cited as Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society. All material for this paper came from Box 12, and labeled Oklahoma Historical Society, 1909-1949.

²Angie Debo, "Early Publications of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (Autumn 1948): 328.

³Thomas H. Doyle, Jessie R. Moore, and Joseph B. Thoburn, "William Parker Campbell," Chronicles of Oklahoma 2 (June 1924):95-96; Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles 26: 325.

⁴William P. Campbell, Mistletoe Leaves, August 5, 1893, 3.

⁵Ibid., p. 1-4; Ibid., August 12, 1893, p. 1; Ibid., September 2, 1893, pp. 1-4.

⁶Debo, "Early Publications," Chronicles 26 (Autumn 1948):326.

⁷Examination of bound volume of Historia by this writer, (which includes issues from September 15, 1909 to July 1, 1922 - noting size increase).

⁸Historia 1 (September 1909):1-4; Ibid., (September 1910):2, 4; Ibid., 4 (July 1913):1, 5.

⁹Ibid., 8 (January 1919); Ibid., 8 (July 1929):5.

¹⁰Ibid., 4 (July 1914): 13; Ibid., 8 (July 1919):1-4.

¹¹Ibid., 8 (April 1920):1-2; Ibid., 8 (July 1920):1.

¹²Thoburn to R. L. Williams, January 15, 1920, Williams Collection Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Williams, April 27, 1920, Ibid.; Esther Witcher, "Territorial Magazines," Chronicles of Oklahoma 29 (Winter 1951):493.

¹³Historia 8 (April 1920):12; Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, May 6, 1920.

¹⁴"Chronicles of Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 1 (January 1921):3-4.

¹⁵Williams to Thoburn, January 9, 1920, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Williams, January 15, 1920, Ibid; Thoburn to Williams, April 27, 1920, Ibid., Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, May 6, 1920. Name changed from Chronicles of Oklahoma to The Chronicles of Oklahoma in December 1936, No. 4 issue but official change was made 1943, cite: "Constitution and By-Laws," Chronicles of Oklahoma 21 (June 1943): Article VI, Section 3A, 211, and "Fiftieth Anniversary," The Chronicles 49 (Spring 1971):2.

¹⁶Mary Hays Marable and Elaine Boylan, A Handbook of Oklahoma Writers (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1939), p. 108.

¹⁷Ibid., pp. 110-111.

¹⁸Thoburn to J. F. Weaver, April 15, 1918, WE-2, No. 2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Williams, January 15, 1920, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to M. M. Quaife, July 18, 1920, OK-2 Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

¹⁹Thoburn to M. M. Quaife, July 18, 1920, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²⁰Edward Everett Dale and James D. Morrison, Pioneer Judge: The Life of Robert Lee Williams (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1958), p. 366; R. L. Williams to Thoburn, March 31, 1921, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²¹Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 1 (January 1921):2-110, Contents.

²²Letter from E. E. Dale, January 26, 1921, Edward Everett Dale Collection, Western History Collections University of Oklahoma. Hereafter cited as Dale Collection, University of Oklahoma; "Announcement," Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 2 (October 1921); Thoburn to W. M. Dunn, June 11, 1921, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²³"Announcement," Chronicles 1, No. 2 (October 1921).

²⁴"Chronicles of Oklahoma," Ibid.

²⁵Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 2 (October 1921): Contents, 117-156.

²⁶Register of Copyrights to Thoburn, November 15, 1921, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

²⁷Historia, was issued January 1, 1922, April 1, 1922, and July 1, 1922; Thoburn to Williams, July 13, 1920, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Williams, October 27, 1921, Ibid.

²⁸Historia 13 (July 1922):1-16.

²⁹"Publication Committee," Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 3 (June 1923).

³⁰"Book Reviews" Chronicles 1, No. 3 (June 1923):161-162; Ibid, Contents.

CHAPTER V

THE TEMPLE OF HISTORY

Ah, who can tell how hard it is to climb
The steep where fame's proud temple shines afar?

James Beattie, *The Minstrel*

The Oklahoma Historical Society never really had a home of its own before 1930; the size of the collection finally increased to a point where the need for permanency was crucial. In that regard, the collection had always been "precariously housed here and there," because the society was forced to lead an orphan's existence throughout its first thirty-seven years, therefore lacking a stable environment. When the historical building was dedicated on November 15, 1930, it represented not only the fulfillment of many years of growth and change, but it stood as a monument to all who had put their time and energy into the advancement of the institution. The society had finally come home.¹

Perhaps no organization in the state of Oklahoma had wider experience in moving about than the Oklahoma Historical Society, which appeared to be an institution

built on wheels. In a period of thirty-five years (1895-1930), the society made five moves (including the temporary inconvenience of 1908, while the Carnegie Library was being remodeled), and all but the final move produced the same overcrowded results. To make matters worse, it had to store part of the collection in other buildings during the last of the Carnegie years, and the officers were constantly asking for more room while in the Capitol basement. Obviously those connected with the society were frustrated with the situation, but a major concern was the damage being done to the collection.²

An attempt to secure a permanent home for the Historical Society actually began in 1909, with the efforts of an organization known as the Women of '89. Appearing on the letterhead of their stationery was the motto "Our Work: A State Historical Building," which was included on a letter dated September 23, 1909. It should be added that Mrs. Marion Rock, a former custodian with the Historical Society, was listed as an officer of that organization. The effort received some publicity when on October 2, 1910, the Daily Oklahoman ran an article titled "Historical Home is Urged Near Capitol." The article began by saying, "The building of the Oklahoma Historical Society will be erected on the capitol site, if the recommendations of the historical committee of the Women of '89 are carried out."³

Those recommendations were obviously premature in

regard to both the Capitol and the Historical Building, but it was an early step in the right direction. The officers saw no real possibility of securing a structure until after the legislature founded a home of its own and if there were advocacy voices within the institution, they were whispers. That possibility finally came after the completion of the state capitol in 1917 and though the issue was brought up two years later, the major push did not actually begin until the 1920's. A key to the eventual success was the significant growth of the collection, but the ultimate strength was power from within the institution's Board of Directors. The society's board was composed of several influential personalities including Jasper Sipes, Thomas H. Doyle, Grant Foreman, Charles Colcord and Robert L. Williams.⁴

In 1919, the issue over the historical building came into focus after the legislature passed a resolution to appoint a five-member commission to plan a memorial to Oklahoma's soldiers who died in World War I. The commission decided to construct a memorial arch on the capitol grounds, but Robert L. Williams immediately voiced his opposition. Writing to Mrs. J. C. Pearson of the Oklahoma State Federation of Womens Clubs in June of 1920, Williams stated that members of the society passed a resolution favoring a historical building over an arch. He added that, "In the building, halls and rooms for the American Legion should be appropriately

and permanently designed as a memorial to the soldiers of the late World War and tablets should be erected and placed in this memorial hall in memory of all the Oklahoma soldiers who died in battle." Letters were sent to a number of clubs and organizations throughout the state in an effort to gain support for the building project. Jasper Sipes wrote to Williams on June 21, 1920, reporting that a committee was formed "to memorialize the Legislature to erect a suitable building" to house the society's collection and contain a memorial hall as well as "War Museum." The building did not become a reality for another decade, but, from 1920 on, those associated with the organization made a continuous effort.⁵

Joseph Thoburn also played an important part in the push to obtain a permanent structure for the society; he constantly kept the issue alive. The letter to Governor Robertson in September of 1922 not only voiced his personal views on the matter, but echoed the feelings of the staff as well, because the quarters in the Capitol were inadequate. Thoburn wrote, "It was then believed that it would have ample room for expansion for at least six to eight years, whereas, in less than five years, it is already badly overcrowded." He then stated that the society "must have more room" and, "Many of its officers, members and friends believe that it should ask the legislature for the erection of a suitable special building on the capitol grounds."⁶

The most significant steps were taken in the mid-1920's when Grant Foreman and Robert L. Williams joined forces to secure an extremely valuable collection to enhance the prestige of the historical institution. They believed that by using that approach, the chances for legislative support for a building might increase significantly. The acquisition of the valuable Indian records from Muskogee was basic to their plan because, with those papers in the possession of the Historical Society, the justification for a permanent structure was greatly improved. A key ingredient to the plan however, was an agreement from the federal government to transfer custody of the records to the society and though that commitment was only verbal, a resolution was submitted to the directors. Without a written agreement, there was no guarantee that the records might be transferred, but Williams and Foreman obviously felt otherwise.⁷

Foreman introduced the resolution to the board of the Oklahoma Historical Society on February 1, 1927, and received unanimous approval. It called for the "transfer of tribal records, documents, laws, council proceedings, reports and correspondence" of the Five Civilized Tribes from the Superintendent at Muskogee to the society. The resolution further stated that the transfer was to be made whenever the "society shall have a fire-proof building in which to preserve them." Upon approval, the directors sent copies to members of both houses of the legislature, which

resulted in a resolution from the lower house that supported the acquisition. The lawmakers approved the transfer of tribal records but they were not easily swayed by the pressure for a building. Perhaps if officials in Washington had made a written agreement, the appropriation might have been approved earlier, but the legislature was not inclined to erect buildings on the strength of verbal commitments alone. Ironically, the building was dedicated four years before the Indian records arrived in 1934.⁸

Several of the earlier issues of Chronicles of Oklahoma contained supportive statements for a permanent building, but most were confined to the minutes of the board meetings. The introduction to the December, 1924, issue contained a paragraph which expressed the hopes that the society might house its materials in a special building to be erected for library and museum purposes. Included in the minutes of the annual meeting for February, 1925, was a note that Robert L. Williams, Thomas H. Doyle, Mrs. Frank Korn, Baxter Taylor and others discussed the topic of a proposed building. During the annual meeting of February 1, 1927 (in which Foreman presented his resolution on the Indian records), Williams made a motion to add two members to the building committee. By 1927, the directors were pushing the project in full force, and they assumed that gaining the necessary appropriations for a building was only a matter of time.⁹

Their assumptions proved correct because on February 25, 1929, the legislature appropriated \$500,000 for the "erection and construction of a building to be used and occupied by the Oklahoma Historical Society." The structure was also to be used as headquarters and offices for veteran and service organizations and other patriotic associations. The building, which was to be located on the grounds of the state capitol, was under the direction of the State Board of Public Affairs and subject to approval by the directors of the Historical Society. The statute also directed the society to select a superintendent to supervise construction who, working with the architect, was to be under joint supervision by the Board of Affairs and the historical directors.¹⁰

In anticipation of the senate appropriation, the directors held a meeting the previous month, on January 23, 1929, to select a building committee to work with the Board of Affairs. The committee of seven consisted of Robert L. Williams, Chairman; Thomas H. Doyle, Vice Chairman; Phil Brewer, W. S. Key; Jasper Sipes; Dan Peery and W. A. Ledbetter. Named later to the Citizens Advisory Committee were Carl McGee, Roy Hoffman, E. K. Gaylord, Mayor W. C. Dean and Joe Huckins.¹¹

On February 18, 1929, Joseph Thoburn wrote to George Bird Grinnell that the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed the measure which was earlier approved by the Senate in regard to the building appropriation. He told Grinnell

that the passage by both houses of the legislature was "a fair indication of what the people of the state at large think of the Historical Society and the work which it has been trying to do."¹² In fact, all who were connected with the historical institution felt a sense of relief and appreciation that the collection was to receive a spacious new home. There was a feeling of satisfaction that their efforts were finally being rewarded and the collection could at last be placed in a stable environment.

The editors of the Chronicles devoted several pages of the "Introduction" of the March issue to the building project, and included the entire statute. On April 25, 1929, the representatives of patriotic societies from throughout the state were invited to examine the initial plans for the building and make suggestions. The library and museum committee was also instructed to purchase equipment and furniture from the 1929 surplus funds. Finally, it was decided in the April meeting that the plans must be approved before the payment was made, and Edward P. Boyd was named superintendent of construction.¹³

After several meetings in the spring of 1929, the building committee decided to tour cities in the northern and eastern sections of the country. The tour was to include Rochester, New York; Indianapolis, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; Topeka, Kansas; Washington, D.C.; Madison, Wisconsin and St. Paul, Minnesota to examine historical

society buildings to determine their structure and organization. All committee members except for Judge Ledbetter made the trip, which began on May 22, 1929.¹⁴

Leaving Oklahoma City on the night of Wednesday the 22nd, the group traveled by Pullman to and from their scheduled destinations. First visiting the Kansas State Historical Society at Topeka, an inspection was made of the structure followed by meetings with various officers of that institution. Following the same routine at each stop, the group was able to examine structural and organizational makeup of the various historical societies they visited. Though the tour was billed as a business excursion, the stop at Washington, D.C. proved to be worthwhile with stops at the Capitol, White House, Smithsonian and several of the noted monuments. The Washington visit was made all the more enjoyable because of the hospitality shown by Senators Elmer Thomas and Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma.¹⁵

Though the group examined several historical societies, the objective of their mission was actually accomplished on the second day (Friday, May 24), when they visited the building of the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul. After first viewing the structure and contents of the building, then meeting with the officers, Williams and Brewer instructed Architect Solomon A. Layton to obtain the necessary blueprints. Those designs of the Minnesota Historical Society building eventually became the model for the Oklahoma

building. Following their return to Oklahoma City, the plans were drawn up to meet those specifications, and on August 2, 1929, the contract was let to Holmboe Construction Company on their bid of \$412,000.¹⁶

On November 16, 1929 (Statehood Day), the cornerstone of the Historical Building was officially laid and those connected with the society made sure that the experience was memorable. Thomas H. Doyle introduced the principle speakers for the occasion, who were Governor William J. Holloway (who signed the appropriation law), Robert L. Williams and Gabe Parker (past superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes). Governor Holloway stated, "The archives before which we stand are to preserve for our posterity the evidences of Oklahoma's culture and greatness." In closing he remarked, "I hereby dedicate this building to the service of history," to "preserve the traditions, the achievements, and the hopes of that remarkable people formed by the fusion of two great and dissimilar territories."¹⁷

Williams was the next to address the gathering, saying "This building is the official home of the state," but in a greater sense "it is the spiritual home of the state." It was his vision that the building was to become the research, historical, and cultural center for the state. The remarks made by Parker were similar, praising both the Historical Society and Oklahoma's progress. Among the items placed in the cornerstone were a Bible, masonic documents,

a copy of the appropriations bill, a 1929 directory of state officials, documents and listings of officers and members of the Historical Society, Memorial Association and various patriotic organizations, a copy of the Daily Oklahoman (November 16, 1929), other newspapers and historical documents.¹⁸

A progress report was included in the March 1930 issue of the Chronicles and indications were that construction was moving rapidly. Letters were sent to historical societies throughout the nation seeking advice on society related topics. Included were pictures of the new building which produced many complimentary replies. On the whole, those efforts were commendable because once the appropriation was made by the legislature, the officers moved quickly to insure that the building was completed as quickly as possible and to the exact specifications.¹⁹

The building itself was an impressive structure which, because Solomon Layton had designed the Capitol building, complimented the surrounding area. It was built on an elevated site (6 feet above the street level) just southeast of the Capitol with the front facing west. The exterior design on the front contained a central Ionic colonnade flanked on both sides by large wings and the exterior walls were faced with Indiana Limestone with the ground floor and entrance steps being faced with granite. Bronze doors served the main entrance and ground entrance to the museum

and the auditorium on the front, while the doors to the shipping room and auditorium in the back were hollow metal. Exterior windows were surrounded by steel casements.²⁰

Interior plans included three main floors above the basement level with an arched and vaulted ceiling in the first floor corridor and beamed ceilings in the corridors of all other floors. The floor of the entrance vestibule was Tennessee and Tavernelle marble and all main corridors were terrazzo floors of colored marble with pattern and border. Floors of the museum and gallery were white oak, which were arranged in parquet blocks in squares of 12 inches. The ground floor consisted of an auditorium on the north wing and a museum for large exhibits on the wing to the south, with a shipping room and newspaper stack room. On the first floor, the large library reading room and newspaper room were the main departments, with the central stairway highlighting the main entrance. The second floor housed the various institutional offices, with the appropriate memorial halls. Finally, the third floor contained museum space and two large gallery rooms on the north and south wings.²¹

The Oklahoma Historical Society building was completed on September 22, 1930, with the formal dedication being held on November 15, 1930. Included in the dedication program were addresses by Governor Holloway, Governor-Elect William H. Murray, Frank Greer, Thomas H. Doyle, and Alice

Robertson. Robert L. Williams presided. A resolution was officially adopted by the Board of Directors which expressed appreciation for the work of the Building Committee, declaring that every dollar was honestly and wisely used in the project. That resolution also recognized the work of the supervising architect, Edward P. Boyd; Holmboe Construction Company; and the architectural firm of Layton, Hicks and Forsyth for their dedication and diligence in successful completion of the structure.²²

A lengthy editorial appeared in the November 9, 1930 edition of the Tulsa Sunday World which expressed pride in the completion of the new Historical building. Briefly discussing the formation and early history of the organization, it mentioned the fact that the society predated the state and began to record history when it was in the making. In closing, the editorial stated that "Commemorating the entrance of a commonwealth into the United States and in tribute to the men and women who helped found that commonwealth, the Historical Society's new home is bequeathed to the state whose name it bears."²³

Not all statements made in regard to the society were favorable; ironically L. M. Nichols, the president of the Oklahoma Press Association (the body which founded the historical institution), made harsh observations. Nichols had delivered his attack several months before the completion of the building and in the presence of the society's Board

of Directors. He said that a small group of the board had assumed nearly all credit for the achievement of the structure, while the real reason for the appropriation was public sentiment and the cooperation of the press and the state of Oklahoma. He further stated that the employees have been without adequate leadership on the direct level, with the "sole supervisory authority resting in the executive committee of the Board of Directors, all of whom are otherwise employed." In closing, he added "Most of the present hindrances are internal, not external, and some of them--happily not many--are due to the dictatorial attitude of a very few members of this Board."²⁴

Whatever comments were made, favorable or unfavorable, the fact remained that the historical building finally was a reality, and the organization had the permanency and feeling of accomplishment which was needed. On the whole, the opinions were positive and the new building represented a combination of the past, present, and future of Oklahoma and its heritage. Those connected with the organization on all levels could regard the building with a deep sense of pride and satisfaction, though it was unfortunate that William Parker Campbell did not live to see the structure which he too helped build. Different words were used to describe the classic beauty of the building but perhaps the most eloquent of all descriptions was, that the historical building stood as a "Temple of History."²⁵

The first months spent in the new building were understandably chaotic with employees trying to organize their various departments. A new dilemma faced the staff because, for the first time ever, the organization had more than adequate room for the collections and it was difficult to decide where the materials were to go. The directors were also attempting to reorganize the institution; therefore much of their business was devoted to changes in policy, which also reflected the increasing power of that body. In the board meeting for January 29, 1931, various amendments were made in the constitution and a more direct working relationship between the secretary of the society and directors was established. They decided that all letters which left the society (including those dictated by others) were to carry the signature of the secretary. The decision was also made that the secretary was to personally receive all items of business then relate them directly to the board.²⁶

On April 23, 1931, the Board of Directors held an eventful meeting with several highly significant issues being discussed. A photostat machine was to be purchased from the re-appropriation funds and money was made available for library stacks from the unassigned funds. Several committees were formed, including one to plan the beautification of the grounds surrounding the Historical building. One committee was appointed to recommend the adequate placement of a cannon (which was a possession of the society) and

another to map and plat various trails, roads and forts throughout the state. One item of business of extreme importance concerned the eventual transfer of the Indian records from Muskogee. In a letter to the board, Foreman reported his confidence that there should be no complications in moving those records to Oklahoma City whenever the society was prepared to receive them.²⁷

Despite the positive aspects to the institution, there were problems in the temple and on April 23, 1931, a long-running feud came to a resolution. The statements made by the President of the Oklahoma Press Association in 1930 were not far from the mark, because internal strife had existed for more than a decade within the society and a new building was not going to remove it. The problems were transferred with the collection. It was unfortunate that one of the first significant developments to occur within the new structure was the forced removal of one of the society's most dedicated employees, Joseph Thoburn.²⁸

It was the climax to a decade-long feud between labor and the management, namely Thoburn and Williams, and it had its effects upon the institution, particularly employees and officers. The conflict also involved personal rivalries and jealousies which resulted in several bitter remarks. Above all, the conflict involved a power struggle between two very strong personalities who viewed their positions and the future of the organization in different ways.

Robert L. Williams gained tremendous power within the society and ultimately achieved absolute control over the board.

Thoburn on the other hand, served the institution as director (beginning in 1903), then as an employee since 1917, therefore achieving a certain amount of influence on his own.²⁹

Initially (1917-1921), the two men appear to have maintained a good working relationship with similar institutional goals in mind. Both desired to make a number of changes because the organization was being run by two so-called old-timers (Sipes and Campbell), who were relying on outdated policies. In response to Williams' request to construct a historical building rather than a memorial arch, Thoburn was very supportive. He wrote to Williams on July 18, 1920, that, "The Society's collections are growing rapidly and a number of additional cases have been installed for the display of the same. In fact, its present quarters are beginning to appear crowded to such an extent as to emphasize the need of the building which you have proposed."³⁰

The development of the Chronicles of Oklahoma reflected the earlier relationship between Thoburn and Williams because both worked in league to get the concept of the journal approved. In a letter to Williams in January, 1920, he mentioned the proposed changes in the society's constitution as the "inauguration of several progressive and constructive policies." He further stated, "I fully endorse

your stand in regard to the Society putting out a dignified and serious historical publication." On April 27, 1920, he expressed doubt that a quality publication was possible under the existing circumstances and requested Williams' support on the matter. In July 1920, Thoburn wrote that "Historia (or as most of us call it, "Histeria")," was seriously harming the society's image with similar institutions throughout the country, and he was going to attempt to halt any future issues.³¹

It was the disagreement over the editorship of the Chronicles in 1921 which, unfortunately, produced the first conflict between the two men. When Williams named Buchanan and Dale from the University of Oklahoma to be editor and associate editor respectively, Thoburn strongly voiced his opposition. In the process, he made several unkind remarks in regard to Buchanan and Dale, which was also a slap at Williams. When the third issue appeared in June 1923, Thoburn was one of three members of the publication committee, therefore becoming an editor of the journal, but Williams did not appreciate his attitude or his opinions regarding editorials.³²

In February, 1924, Williams was re-elected to the Board and Grant Foreman was elected as a new director. The two men (both residing at Muskogee) were friends and they worked together on several projects. Problems soon developed between Thoburn and Foreman in connection with Williams and

also involving a professional rivalry between the two historians. Foreman sided with Williams on a number of issues and, in the process, Muriel Wright was drawn in because of her association with Thoburn.³³

Possessing complete confidence in her abilities as a promising historian, Thoburn asked Miss Wright to co-author his multi-volume history on Oklahoma. In a sense, she followed a similar professional path as Thoburn because, in addition to possessing a strong interest in the history of the state (especially the Indian heritage), her anthropological work was similar to Thoburn's. In 1929, they successfully completed the four-volume Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People, thus receiving praise throughout the state and unwelcomed attention from Williams.³⁴

The young Muriel Wright, because of her not-so-permanent status with the Historical Society at that time, and her working relationships with Thoburn, became an innocent pawn in a very foolish situation. Williams began to keep a careful eye on Wright to see whether or not she was adequately performing her duties and in a letter to J. Y. Bryce, he firmly stated that she was merely a temporary employee, not permanent. On September 10, 1930, he wrote to Dan Peery that she was not doing the work which she was paid to do, and expressed further dissatisfaction with her. It was also pointed out to Thoburn that a certain man had made a cold remark concerning the inadequate abilities of some

individuals who were writing histories about the Indians. Thoburn took the statement as a deliberate slap at Wright and he assumed that Grant Foreman was responsible.³⁵

An incident occurred in 1929 involving a newspaper to be placed in the cornerstone of the very historical building which both Williams and Thoburn had strongly advocated for a number of years. A copy of the Tulsa World, dated November 16, 1929, was to be placed with other newspapers in a copper box inside the cornerstone. The arrangement was, that the paper was to be delivered to Thoburn by a news agency at Oklahoma City, but Williams wrote a letter saying that the paper was never sent and he had to present the paper personally. Williams made some harsh comments about the agency, which in turn prompted them to telephone Thoburn. It was revealed (by Thoburn) that the paper was delivered and he placed it in the box himself. Thoburn did not understand why Williams even brought up the issue in the first place because the matter was presumably taken care of.³⁶

The conflict finally reached a ridiculous point and those involved began to work less constructively on matters which might highly benefit the Historical Society. Early in March of 1931, WKY Radio issued an invitation for Thoburn to appear "on the air" to make three weekly, fifteen-minute presentations for an indefinite period of time. Those presentations, consisting of interesting aspects

of state history, were to be part of the entertainment program, and designed to promote Oklahoma. It was also an opportunity to publicize the Oklahoma Historical Society. In a letter to Judge Harry Campbell on March 10, 1931, Thoburn assured him that the broadcast were to be of no expense to the organization and he intended to make his "contributions accordingly and, at the same time, to advertise the Society and its work in a modest, unobstructive way."³⁷

Williams wrote to Thoburn regarding the broadcasts on March 9, 1931, saying that he was in favor of the project "with the understanding it is not to cost the Oklahoma Historical Society anything." He then added that other officers of the Society, in addition to Thoburn, should also be involved in at least one broadcast. Included in his proposed agenda were Chalres Colcord, Thomas H. Doyle, Czarina Conlan, Dan Peery, Judge Ledbetter, Harry Campbell, Mrs. Frank Korn, E. E. Dale, and, interestingly enough, Muriel Wright. Williams also mentioned "Mr. Grant Foreman, whose recent books have made him an international figure in history." It was his belief that the various officers of the society could cover different aspects of the institution and "reach a special part of the public." It was also his intention to make sure that Thoburn did not receive the full attention and credit in the name of the historical institution.³⁸

In addition to the change of format, Williams stated that "nothing should be done in accepting the proposition

until we have a regular meeting of the Board of Directors in April." He immediately sent letters to other board members and on March 13, 1931, Mrs. Korn sent her reply, which was favorable to the original request that Thoburn handle the broadcasts. She felt that it was "a great opportunity to give publicity to what has been done and what the society is doing--and felt him equal to the occasion of presenting the facts." In no uncertain words, she stated, "I take the position that this is no affair of the Board of Directors and I'm hands off the proposition." Mrs. Korn then added that the invitation was to Thoburn and not the directors, and "J. B. Thoburn and Dr. E. E. Dale were leading historians of the state--so I certainly am not going to oppose the editors in their choice." Thoburn wrote to Judge Williams on March 14, saying that he was willing to wait until the quarterly meeting, but the final decision "will rest with the station management."³⁹

The management of WKY did settle the issue on March 24, 1931, in a letter to President Colcord. William Gillespie, the production manager, expressed full confidence in Thoburn's ability to speak on Oklahoma's history and that other officers of the society "were almost unanimous in their expression of appreciation and advised that Mr. Thoburn accept this offer." Gillespie further stated that "it would be very unsatisfactory to the management of WKY to have twenty people trying to handle these three periods each week."

He then expressed the station's view that "unless the original agreement with Mr. Thoburn is carried out, we have no other recourse than to withdraw the invitation." Colcord wrote to Gillespie the following day saying, "I do not think you need await action of the Board of Directors, but whenever you can get Mr. Thoburn to agree to begin in his series of talks, it will be very agreeable with us." Thoburn did agree to do the broadcasts but with that victory over Williams, the conflict had reached its limit and something or someone had to give.⁴⁰

Early in 1931, Thoburn attempted to pack the annual meeting with his supporters in order to revise the constitution and thus reduce the boards power because as he declared, a "virtual dictatorship" existed. Thoburn continued that one member tried "to dominate" and he was "intolerant of all opposition." As early as 1927, he had written to J. F. Weaver that the "hell-raising" in the Historical Society had increased "largely because of the captiousness of Bob Williams." The key to his plan was speculation as to what Williams might do, and the "involvement of a large delegation of newspapermen who were to be present at the annual meeting of January 29, 1931."⁴¹

That plan (as outlined to N. A. Nichols of the Oklahoma Press Association) rested on the belief that Williams, who was chairman of the committee to revise the constitution and by-laws, was not going to call his committee

together. When he arrived at the annual meeting, there would be no committee report to make, therefore being placed in an awkward position when questioned by various members of the press. With that accomplished, and the newspapermen actually taking over, a succession of motions regarding a number of changes in the constitution were to be made, thus dissolving Williams' committee and appointing a new one to take its place.⁴²

Thoburn's plan was commendable and, in light of Williams' recent actions regarding the placement of the Tulsa World in the cornerstone, and the WKY Radio issue, the press was the logical force to use. It should also be remembered that Nichols (as president of the Press Association in 1930) made several strong statements regarding the ruling class of the Board of Directors. The plan failed because Williams did call a committee meeting just before the annual session resulting in several constitutional changes, but the composition of the board remained intact. Thoburn took a gamble and lost because Williams was too strong to be defeated on mere speculation.⁴³

Williams had a plan of his own regarding Thoburn's status with the Historical Society and it appeared during the Board of Directors meeting of January 23, 1930. With Thoburn not in attendance, Williams made a motion to change his position from Curator to Director of Research in Ethnology and Archaeology, and "at the same salary as he is now

receiving," therefore placing Thoburn in a non-essential job. The motion was approved. A year later however, "seven of the directors of the Historical Society" prepared a bill to be placed before the legislature to slightly change Thoburn's status to overall Director of Research for the historical institution. Williams was obviously alarmed at the proposal and, determined to have Thoburn removed from the Society, he wrote to Tom Anglin at the State Senate on February 21, 1931. In his letter, Williams firmly stated that the change was not a good idea because "Thoburn would be put over research in the Historical Society and he don't function." He continued with repeated attacks on Thoburn's work and strongly advised that the proposal be dropped.⁴⁴

On April 23, 1931, the feud came to an abrupt end when Governor William H. Murray placed a line-item veto on the appropriation for Thoburn's position. Listed among the 1931 appropriations for the Oklahoma Historical Society were these words, "Research Director in Ethnology and Archaeology (Items for both years vetoed and disapproved Wm. H. Murray)." The Oklahoma City Times, April 23, 1931, ran an article on Thoburn's dismissal which mentioned the governor's action "as an after-thought to the departmental bill." When asked if it was Thoburn, Murray replied, "I don't know who it is. I don't care about the person, I want to save the unnecessary jobs." Thoburn commented that the bill listed a position which did not exist but "supposedly

it is my job." Several directors of the Society blamed the veto on the "animosity between Thoburn and Judge R. L. Williams, former governor and Murray friend."⁴⁵

Make no mistake, Joseph Thoburn was never fired from the Oklahoma Historical Society. His position was simply dissolved. He devoted nearly thirty years of his life to the advancement of the institution only to be cast aside through the political intrigue of Williams and Murray. On April 25, 1931, the Daily Oklahoman commented that Thoburn was a "directing genius," whose service to the society "will be felt for many years." It also mentioned that Thoburn's wife died within twenty-four hours of his dismissal. The El Reno American for April 30, 1931, ran an editorial which blasted the directors as being a "small clique" who worked toward Thoburn's removal, and that they "make it not only a political society, but also an organization with which political debts can be paid." It continued that "To turn him loose at the age of 65 years after his remarkable service to Oklahoma," was a very unfortunate mistake. Ironically, Thoburn was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on November 16, 1931.⁴⁶

Sentiments aside, Thoburn helped to create many of his own problems while associated with the historical society and was involved in conflicts with several individuals. His comments about Campbell's "Histeria" were both cold and unjustified in light of the custodian's instrumental role

in the development of the organization. Because of his personal feeling toward the University of Oklahoma, he made several remarks about Buchanan and Dale which were tactless and incorrect. Thoburn also became involved in professional rivalries with Dale and Foreman, which was nothing more than a contest to see who was the true historian of Oklahoma, and they were all talented in that field. He maintained a good working relationship with Muriel Wright (who learned much from Thoburn), but allowed the academic degrees of Foreman and Dale to affect his better judgement. The conflict with Williams was the result of an unfortunate clash between strong wills.

On the other hand, Thoburn was ahead of his time in the fields of historical and archaeological work in Oklahoma. He was strong in his opinions but gentle in his relationship with many of the people he came in contact with. His devotion was steadfast, therefore putting his full attention into any project with which he became involved. While at the University of Oklahoma (1913-1917), Thoburn made archaeological field trips throughout Oklahoma and surrounding states, thus exploring ancient mounds and cave dwellings. He continued that work after his employment with the Historical Society in 1917 and supervised expeditions into the "Cave-Dweller" cultures in the northwestern and northeastern parts of the state as well as the "Mound-Builder" cultures of several counties. He left a lasting

legacy in the better understanding of Oklahoma's pre-history because he actively researched into five primitive cultures.⁴⁷

In the field of history, Dr. Thoburn (he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in 1931 from Oklahoma City University) maintained a life-long devotion to the study of Oklahoma's past. He wrote the first textbook on Oklahoma history in 1908, then in 1914 he revised that work (with S. M. Barrett as co-author) to be called Oklahoma History and Government. Other books written by Thoburn included A Standard History of Oklahoma (five volumes) in 1916 and the four-volume Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People with Muriel Wright in 1929. In 1930, he completed History of the Oklahoma Press and the Oklahoma Press Association.⁴⁸

Thoburn was also a pioneer in the life of the Oklahoma Historical Society and his active involvement spanned those years spent at the Carnegie Library, State Capitol, and the brief period in the Temple. In January of 1932, he returned to the Society as a director and remained active in the institution until his death in 1941. He believed in the fundamental purposes behind the society and worked diligently to make it better, therefore he was similar to Williams in that respect. Elmer Fraker, who became Administrative Secretary to the society in 1955, developed a lasting respect for Thoburn, calling him a "splended man" who was

"close to the people" and possessed a special sense of "humanity."⁴⁹

Robert L. Williams was a builder and he used relentless energy, determination and power in the achievement of his goals. He was the motivating force behind the development of the Chronicles and fought for a decade to secure a permanent building for the Historical Society. During his public life as governor, judge, director and president of the Society, Williams inevitably made many enemies, but he also gained much respect, even from those he came into conflict with. Charles Evans, who came to blows with him over his election to the position of Executive Secretary to the Society in 1944 wrote that "the Judge had the power of calling the Board together and when he wished." They later became friends. Joseph Thoburn even commented on Campbell and Williams, respectively, that "we must ever stand in respect to the memory of the one who dreamed a worthy dream and to the worth and will of the other who has insisted on building that dream into a splendid achievement."⁵⁰

With the removal of Thoburn from employment with the Historical Society, another talented and enduring historian was beginning the first of many years of distinguished service on the Board of Directors. Edward Everett Dale, the natural historian, served in 1921 as associate editor of the Chronicles and was elected as a director in May of

1930, to fill the vacant seat of James S. Buchanan, who died in March of that year. Dale was a master in the field of history because he spoke and wrote about the western life which he knew and respected, therefore easily transmitting those ideas to others. A true legacy of the West, he wrote with unequaled authority. His dissertation, "A History of the Range Cattle Industry in Oklahoma," was completed at Harvard University under the direction of Frederick Jackson Turner, who made a major impact on both his personal and professional life. Dale brilliantly interwove many of Turner's ideas on the value of the American frontier with his own personal experiences on the range, thus blending a concept with a way of life.⁵¹

Dr. Dale's written contributions to Western historiography included numerous books and articles on the history of Oklahoma and the frontiers of the Indian and the West. In 1928 he published The Problems of Indian Administration, which resulted from his work as a member of the Meriam Survey for the Department of the Interior. That book covered the economic conditions of the Indians. Concentrating on the relationship between various tribes of the southwest with the Federal Government, he completed The Indians of the Southwest: A Century of Development Under the United States in 1949. Probably his greatest books were The Range Cattle Industry (1930) and Cow Country (1942), which were definitive works on that aspect of the American West.

Dale was certainly a "top hand" in his profession.⁵²

As a teacher, Dale touched generations of aspiring young historians, forming lasting impressions on their lives. To him, "historical events were not abstractions, but human motives in action. He not only gave his regular courses from that perspective, but he introduced innovative ones." His concept of history was built around a single word: "Progress." As a man, he was an inspiration to those who knew him and; though a "stern taskmaker as far as his own labor was concerned, he was never too busy to help others." Another quality which was one of his most enduring traits "was that he never took himself too seriously," therefore possessing a very good sense of humor.⁵³

It was only natural that Dr. Dale became such a dedicated officer of the Oklahoma Historical Society. A firm believer in its goals, he put his professional skills to work, always striving to make the institution more representative of the varied history of the state. Though he served only a brief period of time as associate editor to the Chronicles, Dale served four decades on the Publications Committee of the Board of Directors and he contributed a multitude of articles. When the Chronicles celebrated its golden anniversary in 1971, the article "The Spirit of Sooner Land" (which he wrote for the volume one, number three edition in June of 1923) was reprinted as a tribute to his many years of service to the growth of the journal.⁵⁴

He served the institution as he served his profession, thus representing the best qualities of both.

The Oklahoma Historical Society, despite the unfortunate incidents of 1930 and 1931, enjoyed a period of substantial growth and achievement during those initial years in the new building. That it not to imply that underlying problems did not exist, but the directors, officers and staff channeled their energies toward more productive goals than in the recent past. An area of outstanding efforts for the institution was the work financed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930's, thus receiving the benefits of a national Recovery program. National acclaim came to the Historical Society when the inestimable records of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians arrived in 1934.

William P. Campbell had mentioned the efforts to obtain a portions of those records in his report for 1907 and 1908. In April of 1906, Congress had specified that "all records of the Five Civilized Tribes on hand at final dissolution" must be turned over to the Department of the Interior as required by law. Campbell stated, "only such records as shall be on hand at time of final dissolution of tribal governments" be transferred. He further stated, "and the fact that dissolution of those governments has been indefinitely postponed makes it possible to secure at least an essential portion of these records" in the archives of Oklahoma. A law was approved on April 24, 1908, which

authorized the transfer of "Seals, Records and Other Papers and Documents to the Oklahoma Historical Society in certain cases, and Declaring an Emergency." With the provision of that law, the society was in a position to preserve the public records of the state, therefore making it custodian of the public archives.⁵⁵

In order to keep "vigilance" over congressional actions regarding those records, letters were sent to Oklahoma's congressmen and senators in 1908. On March 23, 1910, a letter to Robert L. Owen in Washington, D.C. disclosed the Historical Society's intentions. It stated that the "digest" of those records could be placed in the Society, "with the stipulation that the custodian cautiously and safely guard the records and hold them subject to order of the Secretary of the Interior after completion of such digest." The major objective was to instigate a "special bill or resolution" by Congress, to enhance the cooperation between the historical institution and the Interior Secretary. For the next twenty-four years however, the records remained in storage at Muskogee.⁵⁶

As previously discussed, the major push to secure the tribal records began in the mid-1920's through the concentrated efforts of Grant Foreman and Robert L. Williams. Foreman presented his resolution before the board in February of 1927, "that the necessary steps be taken to ascertain what part of said documents be removed to the

archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society at such time as they will be no longer necessary to government administration of Indian affairs." The board approved the resolution but negotiations with the federal government became entangled. Legislative appropriation of funds for the fire-proof historical building enhanced the possibilities and steps were taken to employ a copist to work with the records which were boxed in the federal building at Muskogee.

A meeting of the society board was held on August 1, 1929, and Williams made a motion that Mrs. Rella Watts be employed to catalog the materials at Muskogee, beginning in September of that year. He also moved that Foreman supervise the project. Steps were then taken to supply the necessary items (including steel filing cases) to be used in the work. On September 9, 1929, Watts and Foreman began the task of examining the materials and arranging them into a manageable order. The Cherokee records were the first to be organized and they were arranged according to major sub-divisions. Alphabetical subject headings included Advocate (newspaper), Buildings, Elections, Federal Regulations, Minerals, Probate Attorneys, Railroads, Religions, Townsites, and Tribal Records. The Cherokee papers alone covered 3,500 cards for the same number of manuscripts. Records for the other tribes (especially the Creek papers) were even more extensive.⁵⁸

Williams wrote to Dan Peery, Secretary of the

Historical Society, in November of 1930, mentioning the necessity of moving the tribal records to Oklahoma City as quickly as possible. He also stated, "we should make application at an early date for the transfer as soon as we get in our building." Continuing his remarks, Williams disclosed that it was essential that an appropriation of at least \$1,500.00 "for each of the two years in the next biennium when we make that showing to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." He concluded by saying he was "reasonably sure" that there would be no difficulties in transferring the manuscripts because of the Commissioner's assurances.⁵⁹

Regardless of the impatience of Robert L. Williams, and despite support from the Indian Commissioner, the work at Muskogee was difficult and slow, and there was no definite approval from Washington. The documents relating to the Five Civilized Tribes constituted not only material on federal regulations and policy, but records on the governing bodies, courts and tribal officers of the individual Indian nations. Their historical significance was monumental, thus extreme patience and care were applied in the handling and classification of the records. The work at Muskogee was to last for a period of five years before the actual transfer was made in 1934.

A curious incident occurred on May 3, 1932 when the Daily Oklahoman ran an article titled, "Solons Boost Museum Plan." The article mentioned the efforts of Senator

Elmer Thomas and Representative F. B. Swank to erect an Indian museum on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. The plan called for a school and a center "where all kinds of Indian relics and records could be gathered both to preserve them and to serve in the teaching of Indian history." They proposed that the federal government build the \$100,000 structure with the state of Oklahoma donating the land, furnishing the center, and maintaining it.⁶⁰

Williams was obviously more than a little concerned with this development and no later than May 4, 1932, he sent a lengthy letter to J. Henry Scattergood, the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Beginning the letter with a typed copy of the Oklahoman article, he immediately voiced his opinion. Reminding the commissioner that the "State of Oklahoma has erected a fire-proof building," he commented that the fourth floor was "set apart for museum purposes in four compartments, two compartments of which are used exclusively as an Indian museum." He then stated that the United States Indian School Inspector had an office in the historical building with an appropriate sign on his door.⁶¹

Continuing those remarks, Williams stated, "To carry out the plan for this building on the University grounds would be merely a duplication of effort and expense," and "I do not have any idea that during this depression that an appropriation for this purpose would be

made." He pointed out that the historical building was well equipped and plans called for the gathering of photostat reproductions of historical records "without cost to other historical societies in the state." Mentioning the accessibility of several state colleges and universities to the "Indian population," Williams felt that "reciprocal relations between the Historical Society and those various colleges" should be maintained. The Society was in a position to make photostat copies of primary records, then returning the originals to the institution that supplied them.⁶²

That incident subsided and the Historical Society was destined to receive not only the records of the Five Civilized Tribes, but those relating to other Oklahoma tribes as well. On September 23, 1932, Williams wrote to Scattergood in regard to the records at Anadarko, Concho, Miami, Pawnee, Pawhuska, and Shawnee. He was referring to a letter from Martha Buntin, the daughter of a former Indian agent, which expressed concern over the trusteeship of the documents. Those documents related to the Sac and Fox, Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes as well as "nine packing cases of the Shawnee papers." Williams did not wish to take any action on the matter without permission from Scattergood so he suggested that a letter from Washington might appropriately handle the situation. He was being careful not to cause complications with the Interior Department in regard to the papers.⁶³

Foreman reported in March 1933 on the progress being made at Muskogee and on the efforts to obtain various tribal records from the western part of Oklahoma. A motion was made at the board meeting of the society on January 28, 1932, that Miss Buntin work with those documents relating to the western tribes. The records were located in four agencies and they were in a relatively poor condition as the result of long-term neglect. In February of 1933, Superintendent Charles Eggers of the Shawnee and Sac and Fox Agency wrote to Foreman that the old files were in boxes and with the proper authority, the papers should be placed in the Historical Society. Superintendent W. B. McCowan, who was in charge of the Kiowa files at Anadarko, reported in February of 1933 that he was under the impression that a bill was to be brought before Congress authorizing the files of various agencies to be deposited in the Historical Society archives. The story was the same for all documents pertaining to the tribes of the western part of the state which, through continuous neglect, were in serious danger of being lost. The various agency superintendents were almost issuing pleas for the Historical Society to incorporate those records in the archives, thus preserving them before loss occurred.⁶⁴

Williams wrote to Senator Elmer Thomas on March 2, 1934, regarding a bill which passed the House of Representatives the previous February. The bill was introduced by

Congressman William Hastings of Oklahoma and it provided for the transfer of tribal records from throughout the state to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Society was to act as custodian of the records "under rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Secretary of Interior." It also provided that those records be returned to a designated official of the government upon the request of the Secretary of Interior. The bill, which was "introduced at the request of the Oklahoma Historical Society," was prepared for introduction in the Senate. Williams expressed his concern that the matter be settled during the congressional session, therefore making one last appeal to the Senator.⁶⁵

The year of 1934 was significant in the policies between the federal government and Indian relations, with several major acts being passed in Congress. In April, 1934, the Johnson-O'Malley Act helped establish better communication between the authorities of state and local schools in Indian education. The Indian Reorganization Act, or Wheeler-Howard Act, of June 18, 1934, changed Federal policy on individual Indian land allotments and permitted renewal of tribalism. Prior to the passage of that bill, Congressman Hastings (Oklahoma) debated the faults in the Wheeler-Howard bill, in regard to the "self-government features" and its affect on the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. There were a number of acts that year, but the one that concerned the Oklahoma Historical Society came

in March.⁶⁶

On March 27, 1934, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior "to place with the Oklahoma Historical Society of the State of Oklahoma any records of the Five Civilized Tribes, including the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles." It also made provision for similar transfer of records for the "Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo and Apache Indians" from the Anadarko agency, as well as the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal papers from Concho, and the records of the "Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, Kickapoo and Iowa" tribes at Shawnee and the "Wyandotte, Seneca, Quapaw, Peoria, Modoc and Miami" records at Miami. Other agency records designated for transfer included those for the "Tonkawa, Ponca, Pawnee, Otoe and Kaw Indians" at Pawnee, then the Osage documents from Pawhuska.⁶⁷

The Historical Society was to act as custodian of these documents, therefore representing the United States and the Secretary of Interior. It was to follow the "rules and regulations" as stipulated by the Secretary. Copies of those records could be made by the Society then certified by the "Secretary or Chief Clerk" of the Historical Society with its official seal. The institutional secretary or clerk was in fact acting as an agent of the federal government and the copies carried the "same force and effect as if made by the Secretary of the Interior." The act also stipulated that the records were to be "promptly returned"

to the designated official of the Interior Secretary when requested.⁶⁸

In addition to the Oklahoma tribal records, Foreman traveled to Jackson, Mississippi; Montgomery, Alabama; and Washington, D.C. to collect papers and documents from those archives. The J. F. H. Claiborne and George S. Gaines Papers were copied in the Mississippi State Department of Archives. Materials relating to the Creek Indians before their removal (348 pages) were copied from the Alabama Department of Archives and History. While in Washington, papers pertaining to the early military history, as well as other early historical materials of Oklahoma (196 pages) were obtained from the Adjutant General's office in the Old Records Division. He also compiled records on early Oklahoma post offices as well as papers on the "Indians who served in the Confederate Army," while in Washington.⁶⁹

Foreman was also requested to make copies from Indian office documents, which included manuscript correspondence between tribal representatives and officials of the military and the federal government. That correspondence related to tribal administration in Indian Territory. He also gathered material on various surveys among the tribes in the eastern part of Oklahoma during the 1830's. That material was also gathered while in Washington, D.C.⁷⁰

The manuscripts from Mississippi, Alabama, and the nation's capitol were assembled during the late 1920's and,

with the tribal records from throughout Oklahoma, constituted a major addition to the resources of the Historical Society. Manuscripts from the Federal Building at Muskogee alone contained approximately 150,000 papers and documents. Of those, the Cherokee material covered 524 bound volumes; Choctaw, approximately 204 volumes; Chickasaw, 46 volumes; and 56 volumes on the Creeks. Those, coupled with the records from the Western tribes weighed approximately ten tons, which were delivered to the Society. In 1934, the Indian documents, newspapers and various museum relics represented years of foresight and constant work which made the Oklahoma Historical Society a prestigious leader in the documentation of the nation's aboriginal heritage.⁷¹

During the annual meeting of the Historical Society on April 19, 1934, appreciation was extended to Congressman William Hastings for introducing the Indian manuscripts transfer bill. The Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs were then recognized for their efforts in behalf of the bill which placed the tribal records in the custody of the Society. Thanks was also extended to Congress for passage of the measure. A resolution prepared by Grant Foreman (who was not in attendance), called on the Society "to aid in the location and preservation" of historic sites in Oklahoma. It was mentioned that prompt action was necessary to save the home of Sequoyah and the "venerable structures forming part of

the old Fort Gibson."⁷²

The directors decided that a room on the southeast second floor of the building should be set aside for storage of the Indian records, which were in the process of being transferred to Oklahoma City. During the meeting for October, 1934, Foreman introduced a resolution concerning those records that placed Rella Watts in charge of their supervision and care, therefore making the Archives her primary responsibility. Representatives from the Society were to begin an effort to secure federal funds to be used in the restoration of the stockade at Fort Gibson. The board then discussed arrangements for the transfer of the Neosho Agency records. Other items of business which related to the Historical Society in 1934 included the transfer of records from both the Highway Department and State Capitol to the Historical Building. On December 10, 1934, the Historical Society lost one of its strongest leaders with the death of Charles F. Colcord.⁷³

In January of 1935, Judge Thomas H. Doyle was elected President of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He was born in Massachusetts in December of 1862, the son of immigrants from Ireland. Doyle later moved to Kansas where he eventually studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1893. Then moving to Oklahoma Territory, he aided in the establishment of the town of Perry and became a partner in the law firm of Stone and Doyle, then the firm of Doyle and

Barrett. In 1897, he was a representative in the territorial legislature, later to become Speaker Pro Tempore and the Judiciary Committee chairman. While in the legislature, Doyle became a champion in the fight for single statehood and he stated his case in Washington. Following statehood, Governor Charles N. Haskell appointed Doyle to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.⁷⁴

Law was the major force in Doyle's life, but he also was active in various organizations including the Oklahoma Historical Society. With a deep interest in the history of Oklahoma, he served the historical institution for many years, therefore assisting in its growth. Elected to the Board of Directors in January of 1917, he was an instrumental force behind the effort to secure the historical building, serving on that committee. Doyle was serving as Vice-President of the Society at the time of Colcord's death and he was President from January 1935 to January, 1938 when he became President Emeritus.⁷⁵

Another of the distinguished members of the Society's Board of Directors during that period was Emma Estill-Harbour. Born in 1884, she grew up with Oklahoma and dedicated herself early to the pursuit of an education. After receiving her Bachelor's degree from the Oklahoma College for Women, Harbour became a member of the staff at Central State Teachers College in 1912, serving at the institution for forty years. In 1933, she earned her

Doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. Harbour belonged to a number of organizations, including the American Association of University Women, the Oklahoma Education Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical Society, and the Oklahoma Writers.⁷⁶

In 1924 Dr. Harbour was honorary secretary of the Democratic National Convention and was later appointed to the National Commission for Better Homes by President Herbert Hoover. Oklahoma honored her in 1935 when she was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Her service to the Historical Society was long and distinguished, serving on the Board of Directors from 1921 to 1967. She also contributed a number of articles to the Chronicles of Oklahoma. Dr. Harbour has the distinction of being the only female president of the Historical Society, serving in that capacity from 1948 until 1950.⁷⁷

The Oklahoma Historical Society in the mid-1930's was enjoying one of the finest periods in its first half-century of existence, with a permanent building, the housing of the valuable Indian manuscripts and a board which appeared to be working together for the first time in a number of years. Added to that were the books, non-Indian collections, museum items and the tremendous newspaper holdings which were incorporated into the institution throughout the years. Still, the Society was operating under perennial hardships--insufficient funding and the

lack of adequate staffing to complete the required work. Appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, totalled \$27,200.00 which was to increase to \$27,600.00 by June of 1937. Regarding the staff shortage, each department experienced a backlog of unfinished work.⁷⁸

Financial problems were normal and those connected with the institution had to live with that fact, but the labor shortage was somewhat reduced with the aid of the Works Progress Administration. When Franklin Roosevelt became president in 1933, the nation was struggling in a severe economic depression, accompanied by widespread unemployment. Under the W.P.A., the President endeavored to secure jobs for the unemployed through federally-funded projects for both the blue and white collar workers. A major contribution of that program was the utilization of human resources to provide needed employment for workers to attend to worthwhile projects. In that regard, the Historical Society and the workers enjoyed the mutual benefits of the program.⁷⁹

Indian artistic expression was added to the Historical building in 1934 when the main hall of the fourth floor museum was adorned with Kiowa murals. Monroe Tsatoke (Tsa-To-Ke) and Spencer Asah of the Kiowa tribe were named to do the art work (Public Works of Art) program, funded by the Civilian Works Administration. The first of the murals was begun by Tsatoke, as he sketched,

then painted a Kiowa tribesman in the pose of a war dance. In all, there were eight Indian figures painted (six by Tsatoke and two by Asah), representations of the Kiowa, Cheyenne, Comanche, Osage, Choctaw and Secotan tribes. Tsa-To-Ke also painted two war shields. A painting titled "Indian Friendship" by James Auchiah was presented to the Society in 1934.⁸⁰

James Auchiah, Monroe Tsatoke, and Spencer Asah were members of a group of Indian artists who attended the University of Oklahoma, and were encouraged to paint in their native style by Professor Oscar Jacobson. The other Kiowa artists were Jack Hokeah, Stephen Mopope, and Lois Smoky (who left the group in 1930). During the 1930's, the remaining artists became nationally and internationally known as the "Kiowa Five" and they did much to stimulate interest in traditional Indian art. Under Roosevelt's administration, and beginning in 1933, the W.P.A. program was developed to provide employment for artists. The Kiowa Five were involved in the program and many post offices and other public buildings were adorned with their artistic compositions.⁸¹

In November of 1935, the Oklahoma Historical Society sponsored a white-collar program of the W.P.A. Included in the various institutional projects was the cataloguing and indexing of 15,000 newspaper volumes, the arrangement and classification of 350,000 archival

manuscripts, and "cataloguing and indexing books and other material in the library." Another project included the copying of Indian records at Muskogee, as well as other indexing projects in that city. The federal government supplied \$24,000 for workers, while the Historical Society furnished \$1,892 for supplies. Grant Foreman was director for both the Oklahoma City and Muskogee programs.⁸²

The Oklahoma City headquarters of this particular project was located in the historical building with a "directing committee" of five members, who were in charge of fifty workers. Among the latter were ten typists; thirty people as "readers and classifiers;" and ten people to work in the library. The workers were limited to not more than 128 monthly hours, constituting a weekly schedule of "five six-hour days." Though the institutional projects (news-papers, library and archival work) were included in the original format, the program soon broadened beyond the confines of the historical building. Two major projects were the Indian-Pioneer histories and those dealing with historic sites.⁸³

In December of 1936, (due mainly to the foresight of E. E. Dale and Grant Foreman), a jointly sponsored project of the University of Oklahoma and the Historical Society was developed to conduct personal interviews throughout the state. In Dale's words, "we organized a W.P.A. project in which the Historical Society and the Department of

History placed a 'white collar worker' in virtually every county in the state." Those workers were "to call upon early settlers and get the story of the migration to Oklahoma and their early life here," and for the "Indians, whites, or Negroes born in Oklahoma, the interviewer was to get the account of the 'old timers' story." As a whole, the interviews were to constitute a wealth of personal recollection on Oklahoma's past, as told by those who actually experienced it.⁸⁴

Foreman was the director of the Indian-Pioneer project and, operating from the Muskogee headquarters, an "editorial force" received the accounts from the field workers (approximately 100 people). As the interviews were collected, they were edited, typed, then placed in volumes eventually to be transferred to Norman and Oklahoma City. An important aspect to the success of the project was the cooperation between the University and the Society, therefore a key to that success was the professionalism of Dale and Foreman, who realized the historical significance of the memoirs. The Indian-Pioneer project ended in January of 1938, and the only apparent conflict occurred in October of 1937 over the issue of joint financing.⁸⁵

Dale sent a letter to Secretary of the Society J. W. Moffitt on October 22, 1937. He re-affirmed the agreement that the Society and the University were "co-sponsors" of the Indian-Pioneer project and each was to "share equally

in the expense for materials" and "each shall receive copies of all materials collected and transcribed." J. Stanly Clark, who succeeded Foreman as project director, wrote Dale to inform him that more financial assistance was needed from the University, therefore Dale sent \$20.40. Clark then visited with Dale, noting that the Society contributed \$149.90 as of August 10, 1937, and the project was expected to be completed the following January. Dale gave Clark a check for \$20.50, making the total University contribution at \$40.90, therefore the combined total from the two institutions was \$190.80. A check for \$54.50 was attached to the Moffitt letter, "which balances our account with the Oklahoma Historical Society," therefore "clearing up all points of issue" between the institutions.⁸⁶

The Indian-Pioneer Project, Number 131 (listed as S-149 under the Clerk's Certificate of July, 1937) of the W.P.A. ended on January 24, 1938.⁸⁷ A total of 112 volumes had been compiled in duplicate sets, with one going to the library at the University of Oklahoma, and the other set to the archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society.⁸⁸ Each volume contained 500 pages with approximately 100 interviews per volume. The project (lasting just over two years) produced over 45,000 typed pages from 11,000 interviews. Known as the "Indian-Pioneer Paper's" they represented the combined efforts of many people who captured recollections of a passing era. They were memories on Oklahoma's past.⁸⁹

Another W.P.A. project which went beyond the confines of the Historical Building was the restoration and preservation of historic sites in Oklahoma. Under normal circumstances, and without the physical and financial resources adequate to engage in restoration work, a number of landmarks were left to deteriorate. The W.P.A. program provided the opportunity which enabled the Society to make needed improvements before the damage was irreversible. Restoration was completed on three major sites--the stockade at Fort Gibson, the Sequoyah home, and the Robert M. Jones Cemetery near Hugo.

Foreman reported to the Board of Directors on June 17, 1936, on the progress being made by the W.P.A. programs sponsored by the Society. Included were comments on the restoration work at Fort Gibson, "with the funds so provided, and the project approved by W.P.A., the old Ammunition House has been repaired," as well as the "Barracks Building." A "Stockade Commission" was established to erect a log structure, and it was scheduled for dedication on June 23, 1936. The Sequoyah Home (cabin) was acquired by the "State of Oklahoma for the use and benefit of the Oklahoma Historical Society." Located on ten acres of land, an amount of \$10,000 was approved for the construction of a stone building to surround the cabin. It was dedicated on June 12, 1936.⁹⁰

During the Board of Directors meeting for October,

1937, Robert L. Williams requested that a committee be formed to purchase, then place a copper plaque on the newly constructed wall of the Robert M. Jones Cemetery. Jones, who had been a member of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, and became a distinguished leader of the Choctaw Indians, was buried with his family at Rose Hill. Williams felt the plaque should emphasize that the wall was a project of the W.P.A. and under the sponsorship of the Historical Society. The motion carried and he was authorized to secure the plaque through excess funds from the Sequoyah Project.⁹¹

Williams also reported on the Sequoyah Home, with its ten-acre park. He emphasized that several projects were still to be constructed, including a power house and water tower. In May of 1938, it was reported that the Sequoyah work was completed except for "landscaping and watering." Williams suggested that this be continued to the end of the summer in order to adequately complete the grounds' beautification around the monument. He also reported that the Robert M. Jones Cemetery was complete, therefore representing "an enduring memorial to him," as an outstanding leader of his people.⁹²

The various W.P.A. projects at the Historical Building were progressing well, but due to the amount of work, the board continuously was being asked for extensions beyond the original deadlines. In January of 1938,

Foreman requested (and was granted) a six-month extension "as may be necessary after July 1, 1938" to complete the indexing and cataloguing efforts. During the May, 1938 board meeting, Williams recommended that the W.P.A. program "functioning in connection with the Historical Society for the past two years" be extended (again because of the indexing and cataloguing projects). He then asked the board "to bind the Society in a sponsor's fund, not to exceed \$750,000," to come from state or private sources, which was also approved by the directors. On January 26, 1939, Foreman requested the "continuation or renewal" of the W.P.A. programs, which were scheduled to end in April of that year. He further recommended that the president be authorized to use state or private funds to continue those projects. The motion carried.⁹³

In June of 1940, the president presented a resolution from the Kingfisher Chamber of Commerce, requesting that the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Oklahoma Historical Society be held in that city, "the place of its organization in 1893." Williams then read a report on the W.P.A. programs, saying that it "has functioned in cataloguing and indexing of newspapers and other periodicals, manuscripts, old letters, diaries, wills, etc." In October, 1940, it was reported that a new contract regarding the W.P.A. extension had been prepared. During the annual meeting of May 1941, the President reported that the W.P.A.

program, which was sponsored by the Historical Society, had expired. He then mentioned that "certain restrictions" were imposed by Washington, that "would seriously handicap the Society," therefore an application was to be made to the Oklahoma W.P.A. for modifications.⁹⁴

On January 8, 1941, James W. Moffitt wrote Williams, informing him of the changes in the program, saying that the "W.P.A. seems to be stressing national defense." Williams then sent a letter to Senator Elmer Thomas on January 9, 1941, enclosing a memorandum that showed the work that the W.P.A. was performing in assembling national defense data. Thomas wrote to Williams on January 13, 1941, stating that, "It is now up to the discretion of the Directors of the W.P.A. in Oklahoma City, whether the project will continue." The Society tried to gain as many benefits of the W.P.A. program as possible, and for as long as possible, but major changes were occurring that the institution could not work with. After December of 1941, the county became involved in much larger issues and the W.P.A. was replaced by various programs in the war effort.⁹⁵

The Oklahoma Historical Society benefitted tremendously from the W.P.A. projects, with long-overdue work being accomplished. Projects such as the Indian-Pioneer histories and restoration of several historic sites were important not only to the Society, but the state of Oklahoma

as well. The Historical Records Survey, which included the county archives inventories, was also of major value. Cataloguing and indexing of the newspaper collection, the biographical indexing in the library, and work with the archival manuscripts represented a creditable advance for the historical institution. Though many people were involved with the program, two individuals deserve special mention--William S. Key and Grant Foreman.

William Shaffer Key was born in Dudleyville, Alabama, in October, 1889, coming to Oklahoma in 1911. He began his military career early and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during the First World War. During World War II, he became Major General of the 45th Division of the United States Army, later becoming Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army in Europe. He was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1943. General Key also became an outstanding leader in civic affairs before and after the war, which included his years of service as a director of the Oklahoma Historical Society from February 1927 to 1958. He also served as the head of the Works Progress Administration for Oklahoma.⁹⁶

Grant Foreman was a pioneer in the historiography on the American Indian. Born in Detroit, Illinois, on June 3, 1869, he graduated with a L.L.B. degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1891. Arriving in Indian Territory to work with the Dawes Commission, he developed an early interest in the history of the Five

Civilized Tribes. In July of 1905, he married Carolyn Thomas, who shared in his later historical interests and became an accomplished writer in her own right. His interests in Indian history led to a career of diligent research and writing, and he produced a wealth of books and articles. Of his many books, Indians and Pioneers (1930), Advancing the Frontier (1933), The Five Civilized Tribes (1934) and Sequoyah (1938) were among his best.

Perhaps the greatest work was Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, which was first published in 1932. Foreman was a pioneer in Indian studies (the Five Civilized Tribes) because he was actively researching and writing at a time when not much work was being done on that subject.⁹⁷

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society (beginning in February of 1924), Foreman was determined to build its historical resources and enhance the institution's reputation. He was a major force behind the movement for a historical building and he helped bring a multitude of manuscripts into its holdings. Foreman's knowledge and insight into the value of the Indian records of Oklahoma and throughout the nation were vital to the successful incorporation of those papers into the archives of the Society. As director of the various W.P.A. projects (including the Indian-Pioneer histories), he was determined to make the program a success. He also contributed his

writing skills to the pages of the Chronicles.⁹⁸

Certainly the various W.P.A. projects constituted a crucial aspect to the activities of the Historical Society (1935-1941). During that same period of time, employees and officers were conducting business as usual. The W.P.A. workers were performing their tasks while the institutional body was busy carrying on normal activities of managing the institution. There were aspects besides the W.P.A. projects.

On the direct level, Dan W. Peery succeeded J. Y. Bryce as Secretary (the old Custodian position) in 1930 and held that position until 1936. The title changed from Secretary to Executive Secretary in that year, and James W. Moffitt held that position from 1936 to 1944. The title was changed to Administrative Secretary, then Executive Director in later years. On the board level, the title of President remained the same, with Thomas H. Doyle serving in that capacity from 1935 to 1938. On January 27, 1938, Robert L. Williams was elected President, with Thomas H. Doyle becoming President Emeritus.⁹⁹

In 1935, the Historical Society received a valuable acquisition when Governor Ernest W. Marland presented a beautiful painting which depicted an Indian tribal pageant. Titled "Cavalcade" or "Indians on Parade," the large oil was done in 1839 by Alfred Jacob Miller, who had been commissioned by Sir William Drummond Stewart to do scenes

of Indian culture and life. It depicted the "annual rendezvous" between the Indians and the "Rocky Mountain fur traders on the upper Missouri River." Marland purchased the painting in 1928.¹⁰⁰

In April, 1935, the board granted permission to install a bookcase in the library of the Historical Society to hold books and records of the Oklahoma Daughters of the American Revolution. During the meeting of October 24, 1935, the State Board of Affairs was requested to complete landscaping around the historical building. The board also appointed a committee to erect a monument on the trail that was used by Washington Irving when he visited Indian Territory in the early 1830's.¹⁰¹

Correspondence during the 1930's is interesting and informative. On February 8, 1937, James W. Moffitt, from the Society, sent a letter to Judge C. Ross Hume of Anadarko, concerning an incident which occurred in Canada. A man from Anadarko visited that country and discovered Indians speaking the Caddoan language. He inquired as to their tribal affiliation and learned they were descendants of Indians from the southern United States who ventured to Canada with another tribe (perhaps Chippewa). Moffitt asked if Hume knew the identity of the man, and if he did, to inform the Society so a permanent record could be made. Judge Hume replied the next day with the man's name and a brief account of the incident which occurred in 1910. Hume

mentioned that the man told his experience to several Caddo Indians at Anadarko and they were deeply interested.¹⁰²

On matters more closely related to the Historical Society and its institutional aspects, a survey was made in May, 1937, by the American Library Association, on research materials in the Society's library. The materials were inventoried under various subjects including Bibliographies; Dissertations; Local, State and Federal Documents; Manuscripts; General Periodicals; and Society Publications. Other categories were Anthropology and Ethnology; Law; Science; and History. The library contained an impressive collection, and Margaret McGuire (the Society librarian) wrote Dr. Dale on July 23, 1937, to report on the survey findings. She stated, "Since no such survey has ever before been made, it is possible that some of the board members are unaware how many phases of the history of Oklahoma and the Indian are represented in the collection." McGuire enclosed a copy of the report, to inform Dale of the extent of the holdings.¹⁰³

James Moffitt wrote to Dr. M. L. Wardell on February 9, 1938, regarding a picture of Stand Watie. He also mentioned the upcoming presentation ceremonies of the busts of Will Rogers and Wiley Post. Frank Phillips donated the busts to the Historical Society, and on February 13, 1938, they were officially presented to the institution. In his opening address, Governor Marland stated, "Americans are

lovers of peace, and we are gathered here today to honor our peace-time heroes, Will Rogers and Wiley Post." Robert L. Williams said in accepting the gifts, "it was the mandatory duty of the Historical Society to preserve busts, paintings, and records to perpetuate the achievements of the departed great."¹⁰⁴

Though some progress was made in the area of historic sites (mainly through W.P.A. support), the real push did not occur until much later. On February 12, 1940, Moffitt wrote to Dr. Wardell about the possibility of his presenting an address concerning the marking of Oklahoma's historic sites at the meeting of the Oklahoma Club on February 19. Wardell sent a letter, dated February 17, 1940, in which he stated he could not "speak with any definiteness on the topic." He continued, "I can tell about all the plans that have been considered, and failed. There is one other plan which I have not attempted to formulate because of the lack of a superintendent who could direct a WPA project."¹⁰⁵

In January of 1941, board president Robert L. Williams was authorized to secure the grounds at the Cherokee Female Seminary, Dwight Mission, and Union Mission. On October 23, 1941, the Memorial Halls to the Union and Confederate soldiers of Oklahoma were closed until a custodian could be hired to care for the rooms. Concerning the Robert M. Jones Cemetery, a deed was

presented and an additional twenty acres was secured. The year 1941 was also saddened by the deaths of Joseph Thoburn on March 2, and Jasper Sipes on July 12.¹⁰⁶

A report was made in 1942 on the newspaper collection at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Since the press association had founded the institution, a sketch of that report deserves mention. There were 19,005 volumes of bound newspapers, which were chronologically and alphabetically filed, listed on nearly 900,000 index cards. The Society was receiving "59 daily and 220 weekly, semi-weekly and monthly publications," to be bound and preserved. Photostatic copies were made of the oldest newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix (1828), and other rare Indian newspapers, including the Cherokee Advocate, Cheyenne Transporter, and the Indian Journal.¹⁰⁷

The Oklahoma Historical Society, fifty years old in May, 1943, was a dramatic contrast to its days in the Kingfisher County Courthouse. It became a departmentalized institution, with growth in each area of operation. W.P.A. funding enabled the Society to accomplish projects which were long-overdue and greatly needed, but there was still much to be done. Several organizational pioneers were gone and new individuals were there to take their place. In 1943, the Chronicles of Oklahoma was on volume 21 and a new assistant editor named Muriel H. Wright began the first of many years of service to the historical journal.

Oklahoma Her father was a physician, Dr. Eliphalet Nott Wright, and her grandfather was the Reverend Allen Wright who had been Principal Chief of the Choctaws and suggested the Choctaw word "Oklahoma" as the name for the Indian Territory. Her mother, Ida Belle Richards Wright was of colonial ancestry. Muriel Wright's Choctaw heritage (one-fourth) came from her grandfather. She was born in the Indian Territory on March 31, 1889, and later attended Wheaton College in Massachusetts. In 1911, she attended East Central College at Ada, where she received her Bachelor's Degree. After graduation, Wright taught school at Wapanucka, Oklahoma, then Tishomingo, and in 1916 she attended Barnard College at Columbia University to work on her Master's Degree, though World War I ended those hopes.¹⁰⁸

Oklahoma Proud of her Indian heritage, Muriel Wright became involved in tribal affairs of the Choctaws and devoted a major portion of her life to the historical significance of the Indian to the nation, region, and state of Oklahoma. History was a vital interest, and she worked to develop her talents, eventually to become a writer on Oklahoma and the Indian. Her books included: The Story of Oklahoma (1929), Our Oklahoma (1939), and A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma (1954), which was perhaps her best. She also edited a number of books, but her main contribution to historical writing was a multitude of articles published in the Chronicles. Though her early employment was with the

Oklahoma Historical Society, she came into her own prominence after appointment as assistant editor of the Chronicles in 1943. Later to become its editor, the journal was her voice.¹⁰⁹

"This Memorial is presented in The Chronicles that the people of the State and its future generations may hold in honor and remembrance the men from Oklahoma who have given their lives in answer to the high call of the United States for bravery, faith and courage in the present war." Those words introduced the effort by the Oklahoma Historical Society through the Chronicles, to honor the war dead from the state. The program was authorized by the board in July of 1943, and it continued until 1949. Named the "Oklahoma War Memorial," it was a fitting tribute to the people of Oklahoma from their state historical institution.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹Wescomb, "The Oklahoma State Capitol Building," EPA, March 30, 1934, P. 1, VF. Library, Oklahoma Historical Society.

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¹¹³Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, February 1, 1927, Chronicles of Oklahoma 5 (March 1927): 110-111.

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CHAPTER V

ENDNOTES

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¹²Thoburn to George Bird Grinnell, February 18, 1929, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

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¹⁴Allen, "Oklahoma Historical Building," Chronicles of Oklahoma 48 (Winter 1970-71):475-478.

¹⁵Ibid., pp. 2-3.

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³⁴Lambert, Joseph B. Thoburn, pp. 82-83.

³⁵Williams to J. Y. Bryce, August 6, 1929, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society; Williams to Dan W. Perry, September 10, 1930, Ibid.; William M. Dunn to Thoburn, April 15, 1930, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

³⁶L. W. McFetridge to Stephenson News Agency, Oklahoma City, November 15, 1929, OK-2, No. 1, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society; McFetridge to Stephenson News Agency, November 23, 1929, Ibid.; Thoburn to McFetridge, November 23, 1929, Folder K-2, No. 1, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

³⁷Williams to Thoburn, March 9, 1931, OK-2, Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.; Thoburn to Harry Campbell, March 10, 1931, Ibid.

³⁸Williams to Thoburn, March 9, 1931, Ibid.

³⁹Ibid.; Mrs. Frank Korn to R. L. Williams, March 18, 1931, Ibid.; Thoburn to Williams, March 14, 1931, Ibid.

⁴⁰William Gillespie to Charles Colcord, March 24, 1931, Ibid.; Colcord to Gillespie, March 25, 1931, Ibid.

⁴¹Letter Draft to Members of the Oklahoma Historical Society, No Date, OK-2, Ibid.; Thoburn to J. F. Weaver, February 17, 1927, WE-2, No. 3, Ibid.

⁴²Thoburn to N. A. Nichols, January 19, 1931, OK-2, Ibid.

⁴³Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Annual Meeting, January 29, 1931, Chronicles of Oklahoma 9 (March 1931):106-109.

⁴⁴Oklahoma Historical Society, Ibid., Annual Meeting, January 23, 1930, Chronicles of Oklahoma 8 (March 1930):143-144; Williams to Tom Anglin, February 21, 1931, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁴⁵Oklahoma, Session Laws of 1931 (Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Company, 1931), Appropriations - General, Oklahoma Historical Society:305; "J. B. Thoburn Ousted When Murray Vetoes Salary Item," Oklahoma City Times, 23 April 1931, p. 22.

⁴⁶"Proverbial Ingratitude," Daily Oklahoman, 25 April 1931, p. 8; El Reno American, 30 April 1931, p. 2; Daily Oklahoman, 9 November 1931, p. 4.

⁴⁷Marable, and Boylan, Handbook of Oklahoma Writers, pp. 126-127; Muriel H. Wright, "Pioneer Historian and Archaeologist of the State of Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma 24 (Winter 1946-47):403-405.

⁴⁸Ibid., pp. 402-403, 412.

⁴⁹Lambert, Joseph B. Thoburn, 139; Phone Interview with Elmer Fraker, Retired, Satellite Beach, Florida, 13 December 1984.

⁵⁰"Notes on the Autobiography of Dr. Charles Evans, Dictated by Himself," Dr. Charles Evans, 1870-1964, by Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Special Roll, Misc. M. F. 137, pp. 172-184, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society; Thoburn to Breckinridge, September 14, 1939, OK-2, p. 7. Thoburn Papers, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵¹Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Annual Meeting, May 5, 1930, Chronicles of Oklahoma 8 (June 1930):246-247; Arrel M. Gibson, ed., Frontier Historian: The Life and Work of Edward Everett Dale (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1975), Arrel M. Gibson, "Edward Everett Dale: The Historian," pp. 17-18.

⁵²Jimmie Hicks, "Edward Everett Dale: A Biography and a Bibliography," Chronicles of Oklahoma 45 (Autumn 1967):293-295, 298-299.

⁵³Gibson, ed. Frontier Historian, Angie Debo, "Edward Everett Dale: The Teacher," pp. 33, 35; Ibid., John S. Ezell, "Edward Everett Dale: The Man," pp. 45-46.

⁵⁴Edward Everett Dale, "The Spirit of Soonerland," Chronicles of Oklahoma 1, No. 3 (June 1923):167-178; "The Chronicles of Oklahoma: Fiftieth Anniversary," Chronicles of Oklahoma 49 (Spring 1971):2-3, Dale, "The Spirit of Soonerland," Ibid., p. 4-13, Reprint.

⁵⁵Campbell, Custodian's Report, 1907-08, 4-5; Oklahoma Session Laws of 1907-1908 (Guthrie: Oklahoma Printing Co., 1908):433.

⁵⁶Campbell, Custodian's Report, 1907-08, 5; Letter to Hon. Robert L. Owen, March 23, 1910, Oklahoma Historical Letters, 1909-1911, Misc., M. F. 202, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵⁷Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, February 1, 1927, Chronicles of Oklahoma 5 (March 1927):110-111; Grant Foreman, "A Survey of Tribal Records in the Archives of the United States Government in Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma 11 (March 1933)625.

⁵⁸Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, August 1, 1929, Chronicles of Oklahoma 7 (September 1929):355-356; Grant Foreman, Report of Work Among Old Files in Muskogee, (No Date), 1-3 Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵⁹Williams to Dan W. Peery, November 7, 1930, Folder 15, Doyle Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶⁰"Solons Boost Museum Plan," Daily Oklahoman, 3 May 1932, p. 11.

⁶¹R. L. Williams to Hon. J. Henry Scattergood, May 4, 1932, Folder 6. Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³Williams to Scattergood, September 23, 1932, Ibid.

⁶⁴Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Quarterly Meeting, January 28, 1932, 141 (Typewritten); Foreman, "Survey of Tribal Records," Chronicles of Oklahoma 11 (March 1933):631-634.

⁶⁵Williams to Hon. Elmer Thomas, March 2, 1934, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶⁶Wilcomb E. Washburn, ed. The American Indian and the United States: A Documentary History (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press Publishers, 1978), Vol. 2, pp. 918-919; Ibid., pp. 922-923; Ibid., Vol. 3, pp. 1994-1997.

⁶⁷U.S. Congress, Joint, An Act to Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Place With the Oklahoma Historical Society at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, As Custodian For the United States, Certain Records of the Five Civilized Tribes, and of Other Indian Tribes in the State of Oklahoma. Approved, March 27, 1934, Folder 7, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁶⁸Ibid.

⁶⁹To the Oklahoma Historical Society, (No Date), Folder 7, 1-2, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁷⁰Ibid., p. 2.

⁷¹Grant Foreman to the Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, June 17, 1936, p. 4, Dale Collection University of Oklahoma; Foreman, "Survey of Tribal Records," Chronicles of Oklahoma 11 (March 1933):629-631.

⁷²Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Annual Meeting, April 19, 1934, Chronicles of Oklahoma 12 (June 1934):228-230.

⁷³Oklahoma Historical Society, Ibid., July 26, 1934, Chronicles of Oklahoma 12 (September 1934):369-371; Ibid., October 25, 1934, Chronicles of Oklahoma 12 (December 1934):486-491.

⁷⁴Oklahoma Historical Society, *Ibid.*, January 24, 1935, Chronicles of Oklahoma 13 (March 1935):124; Charles Evans, "Judge Thomas H. Doyle," Chronicles of Oklahoma 27 (Summer 1949):138-142.

⁷⁵Evans, "Thomas H. Doyle," *Ibid.*:142; Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Special Meeting, February 13, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (March 1938):128-129.

⁷⁶J. C. Jackson, "Dr. Emma Estill Harbour, 1884-1967" Chronicles of Oklahoma 45 (Summer 1967):230-231.

⁷⁷*Ibid.*

⁷⁸Oklahoma, Session Laws of 1935 (Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1935) Appropriations, Oklahoma Historical Society:412.

⁷⁹Edward Everett Dale, The West Wind Blows: The Autobiography of Edward Everett Dale, Arrell Morgan Gibson, ed. (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1984), p. 346.

⁸⁰"Public Works Art Projects Are Selected," Oklahoma City Times, 13 January 1934. p. 2; "Historical Mural Takes Form," Oklahoma City Times, 22 January 1934, p. 6; Examination of murals by this writer, noting tribes, number, artists, details.

⁸¹"New Deal Murals," Prepared by Museums Division, Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma City Times, 13 January 1934, p. 2.

⁸²Report on the W.P.A. Project at the Oklahoma State Historical Building to January 10, 1936, Grant Foreman Files, Archives and Manuscripts Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, W.P.A. Material, Indian and Pioneer History Collection. Hereafter cited as Foreman Files, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁸³*Ibid.*

⁸⁴Dale, The West Wind Blows, pp. 346-347; Grant Foreman, The Oklahoma Historical Society, pamphlet prepared on the history of the institution, departmental reports, W.P.A. (No Date), "Indian Pioneer History," (No Page Numbers), VF., Library, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁸⁵Ibid.; "Indian-Pioneer History Project, W.P.A. 131," Chronicles of Oklahoma 37 (Winter 1959-1960):507-509.

⁸⁶Edward Everett Dale to the Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society, October 22, 1937, Dale Collection, University of Oklahoma; Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, October 28, 1937, Chronicles of Oklahoma 15 (December 1937):496. Foreman reported that William Bennett Bizzell, President of the University of Oklahoma, gave the check for \$54.50.

⁸⁷"Indian-Pioneer History Project, W.P.A. 131," Chronicles of Oklahoma 37 (Winter 1959-1960):507; Clerks Certificate, July 29, 1937, Foreman Files, Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁸⁸There were 112 original volumes of the Indian-Pioneer Papers in the Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, another volume added later (not part of original papers); Chronicles of Oklahoma 37 (Winter 1959-1960):507, gives 112 volumes; Dale, The West Wind Blows, p. 347, Dale mentions 132 volumes; Chronicles of Oklahoma 18 (June 1940):198, gives 120 volumes.

⁸⁹"Indian-Pioneer History Project, W.P.A. 131," Chronicles of Oklahoma 37 (Winter 1958-1960):507-509.

⁹⁰Grant Foreman to the Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, June 17, 1936, Dale Collection, University of Oklahoma.

⁹¹Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, October 28, 1937, Chronicles of Oklahoma 15 (December 1937):494.

⁹²Ibid., Annual Meeting, May 5-6, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (June 1938):251.

⁹³ Ibid., Quarterly Meeting, January 27, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (March 1938):125; Ibid., Annual Meeting, May 5-6, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (June 1938):250; Ibid., Quarterly Meeting, January 26, 1939, Chronicles of Oklahoma 17 (March 1939):112.

⁹⁴ Ibid., Annual Meeting, May 9-10, 1940, Chronicles of Oklahoma 18 (June 1940):197-198; Ibid., Quarterly Meeting, October 24, 1940, Chronicles of Oklahoma 18 (December 1940):409; Ibid., Annual Meeting, May 12-13, 1941, Chronicles of Oklahoma 19 (June 1941):197.

⁹⁵ James W. Moffitt to Robert L. Williams, January 8, 1941, Williams Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society; R. L. Williams to Elmer Thomas, January 9, 1941, Ibid.; Elmer Thomas to Williams, January 13, 1941, Ibid.

⁹⁶ Muriel H. Wright, "William Shaffer Key: Oklahoma Patriot," Chronicles of Oklahoma 37 (Summer 1959):138-143.

⁹⁷ Edward Everett Dale, Grant Foreman: A Brief Biography (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1933), pp. 5-8; Stanley Clark, "Grant Foreman," Chronicles of Oklahoma 31 (Autumn 1953):231, 239.

⁹⁸ Clark, "Grant Forman," Ibid.:228-238.

⁹⁹ Executive Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society, From a list partially prepared by this writer, examination of Chronicles of Oklahoma (complete); Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Special Meeting, February 13, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (March 1938):128-129; Daily Oklahoman 28 January 1938, p. 22

¹⁰⁰ Chronicles of Oklahoma 13 (March 1935):106-107; O. B. Jacobson, and Jean d'Ucel, "Early Oklahoma Artists," Chronicles of Oklahoma 31 (Summer 1953):122.

¹⁰¹ Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, April 25, 1935 (Typewritten): Ibid., October 24, 1935.

¹⁰² James W. Moffitt to Judge C. Ross Hume, February 8, 1937, C. Ross Hume Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma; C. Ross Hume to James W. Moffitt, February 9, 1937, Ibid.

103 A Survey of Research Materials in the Oklahoma Historical Society Library, July 4, 1937, Dale Collection University of Oklahoma; Margaret McGuire to Dr. E. E. Dale, July 23, 1937, Ibid.

104 James W. Moffitt to Dr. M. L. Wardell, February 9, 1938, M. L. Wardell Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, hereafter cited as Wardell Collection, University of Oklahoma; Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, Special Meeting, February 13, 1938, Chronicles of Oklahoma 16 (March 1938):128-129.

105 James W. Moffitt to Dr. M. L. Wardell, February 12, 1940, Wardell Collection, University of Oklahoma; M. L. Wardell to James W. Moffitt, February 17, 1940, Ibid.

106 Oklahoma Historical Society, Minutes of the Board of Directors, (Typewritten); Ibid., October 23, 1941; Chronicles of Oklahoma 19 (September 1941):228.

107 Laura A. Messenbaugh, "Newspaper Collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society," Chronicles of Oklahoma 20 (December 1942):403-404.

108 LeRoy H. Fischer, "Muriel H. Wright, Historian of Oklahoman," Chronicles of Oklahoma 52 (Spring 1974):3-10.

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110 Muriel H. Wright, "Oklahoma War Memorial - World War II," Chronicles of Oklahoma 21 (December 1943):325-326.

CHAPTER VI

NINETEEN FORTY-THREE

Major changes are highly probable in a span of fifty years and the period from 1893 to 1943 was certainly no exception. The nation was merely flirting with the possibility of world power status in 1893, but in 1943 it was deeply involved in the second global war of the twentieth century. During the 19th century, the concept of Manifest Destiny was a major force behind the unparalleled growth in the United States. In the same respect, the "new" nationalism of the 1890's helped push the country into a status of power and leadership among other nations.

Oklahoma also experienced tremendous growth and change during that period and, in 1943, its people were contributing their energies to the home and battle-front in the national effort of World War II. In 1893 Indian and Oklahoma territories existed as separate entities with distinctive cultural and institutional aspects, representing differential views on the future of Oklahoma. When the two territories became a single state in 1907, common purposes were blended toward a new sense of direction.

Old frontiers remained, but new ones emerged. Oklahoma's life, culture, and institutions were forced to develop within a relatively short period of time.

In May of 1943, the Oklahoma Historical Society silently observed its golden anniversary. Originally scheduled in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Press Association and to be appropriately held at Kingfisher, the annual meeting was cancelled due to certain war measures because of the "need for curtailment of travel on account of gas and rubber restrictions." On May 27, 1946, the meeting to commemorate the "53rd anniversary of the organization at Kingfisher, Oklahoma" was held in the town where it all began.¹

Roy Gittinger, in his fifty-year history of the University of Oklahoma (1892-1942) wrote, "The Oklahoma Historical Society of the present day places emphasis on its early relations with the Oklahoma Press Association rather than on its legal connection with the society formed at the university." That may be true, but the first collections were secured while the organization was at Kingfisher. The brief life of the Historical Society at Kingfisher was important, because it provided the basic foundations for growth. Established as an institution to preserve all records on Oklahoma's heritage, the founders exhibited a broad view; therefore both territories were represented.²

When "Circular One" was issued on May 29, 1893, it contained the primary goals which still stand behind the fundamental purpose of the organization. Mistletoe Leaves, which was first issued in August of that year, provided a stimulus for the institution and, regardless of the simplicity of its content, was responsible for the primary acquisitions. The Leaves also represented a first step in the efforts to develop an institutional publication. Those initial collections served as the nucleus for later acquisitions, and in the process, valuable historical records from the territorial period were preserved.

The Kingfisher Society was a one-man organization, but that man was able to provide the initial guidelines and accumulate the first group of historic records. Though the Oklahoma Press Association formed the institution, Campbell was the founder and he was left to manage the affairs of the Society. Probably the greatest single reason for the success at Kingfisher was the fact that Campbell was allowed to complete those initial tasks without external conflict. If there had been problems, the struggling society might have folded before it had a chance to grow.

Its time in Norman represented the first legal period for the Oklahoma Historical Society, though the years at the University of Oklahoma are not to be viewed for the mistakes but as a missed opportunity. It was a period of growth and one in which the basic organizational

structure was devised. Therefore those years were equally important foundation years for the society. The University needed the collection and, because of the academic environment, the Society needed to be there as well. It was unfortunate that the effort which successfully brought the organization to Norman was not continued. Equally unfortunate was the action taken by the legislature, which did not provide the proper financial support, therefore the potential was never realized.

In retrospect, the Historical Society was probably destined to make the move to Oklahoma City in any case, but with better support and safer (fire-proof) facilities, the institution might have spent several more years in Norman. Another point to remember is the tension that can develop between history departments and historical societies. With future growth in both, the working relationship might have become strained, therefore causing problems between the academic historians and the staff of the society, but that is speculation. In later years, the University compensated for the loss of the Historical Society with the development of the Western History Collections (mainly through the efforts of E. E. Dale), but it could have benefitted from the Society as well. The University years represented a worthwhile venture that never fully matured.³

The long stay in the Carnegie Library at Oklahoma City was productive and the Historical Society experienced

significant growth. While gathering materials on the remaining territorial years, the institution was in a position to secure the early statehood records after November, 1907, therefore encompassing the historical scope of two completely different eras in Oklahoma's heritage. The Society moved from territorial to state institutional status. Perhaps the most significant developments during the Carnegie years were the publication of Historia and the stabilization in leadership, and both had been lacking since the Kingfisher years. The Society was in need of an institutional journal to promote its name, therefore the publication of Campbell's second magazine (beginning in 1909) was important. Historia did help to stimulate interest during those years and, like Mistletoe Leaves, its significance should not be taken lightly. With Jasper Sipes and William P. Campbell serving a number of years as President and Custodian respectively, the organization received necessary stability. That long tenure also set an unfavorable precedent, because some of the later employees and officers remained beyond their effectiveness and later problems developed. In short, some felt that they were the institution.

When the Society moved into the newly completed State Capitol building in 1917, it was beginning to evolve into a more departmentalized organization. Those were the most troubled years during the first half-century of

existence and several conflicts arose from time to time. It was also a period of major growth and all departments benefited. The personality dynamics were important because several new faces appeared, including four of Oklahoma's best known historians--Thoburn, Foreman, Wright and Dale. New leadership emerged on the board level, producing institutional changes which altered the direction of the society. Hosting the 16th annual session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in 1923 brought out-of-state attention to the institution, but the greatest publicity came from the development of the Chronicles of Oklahoma. With that journal, the officers and staff believed that the organization had finally achieved an adequate historical publication.

The "Temple" represented a permanency that had been lacking, therefore the Historical Society no longer had to exist in borrowed quarters. Unfortunately, the removal of Joseph Thoburn in 1931 cast a shadow on the first year in the new building, but it did end a ten-year or "tenure" conflict that did little but produce bad publicity for the Society. The years from 1931 to 1943 were perhaps the most significant in the fifty-year history, with monumental accomplishments taking place. National prestige accompanied the transfer of the tribal records from Muskogee and throughout the state, and the institution could boast a collection of Indian documents that was second only to the

repositories in Washington, D.C. The various W.P.A. projects were also a key to the success of those years and the Historical Society received the benefits of that nationally sponsored program.

During its first half-century of existence, the Oklahoma Historical Society experienced several uneven phases of growth and change, with each phase building upon the other. Financial difficulties and lack of an adequate staff constantly plagued the organization, but those involved with the Society overcame the many problems to make it work. The institution began in 1893, as an unsure venture but, in 1943, it had emerged as a major state institution which represented the many historical aspects of Oklahoma. With its strengths and weaknesses, the Historical Society did adhere to its basic goals which stated, "The object in establishing this department is the collection of newspapers, books and periodicals, productions of art, science and literature, matters of historic interest, etc. . . ."4

CHAPTER VI

ENDNOTES

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²Gittinger, The University of Oklahoma: A History of Fifty Years, 1892-1942, pp. 21-22.

³Walter Rundell, Jr., In Pursuit of American History: Research and Training in the United States (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), pp. 302-303. University-Historical Society Relations.

⁴Campbell, Circular One: Office of Historical Custodian, Oklahoma Press Association, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, May 29, 1893.

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APPENDIX I

APPENDICES

CHIEF EXECUTIVES--DIRECT LEVEL

Custodian

William P. Campbell,	1893-1895
William T. Little,	1895-1900
Don Northup,	1900
G. A. Burklie,	1900
E. M. Vanderlice,	1900-1902
Marion Hook,	1902-1903
Sidney Clarke,	1903-1904
William P. Campbell,	1904-1924

Secretary

Joseph B. Theburn,	1919-1928
John Young Bryce,	1928-1930
Don W. Perry,	1930-1938

Executive Secretary

James C. Hoffman,	1938-1944
Charles Evans,	1944-1954
Meriel H. Wright, (Acting)	1954-1958

Administrative Secretary

Elmer Fraker,	1965-1973
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Executive Director

V. R. Easterling,	1973-1974
Jack Wettenzel,	1974-1979
H. Glass Jordan,	1979-1981
C. Earle Metcalf,	1981-

APPENDIX I

CHIEF EXECUTIVES--DIRECT LEVEL

Custodian

William P. Campbell.	1893-1895
William T. Little.	1895-1900
Don Northup.	1900
G. A. Burklin.	1900
E. M. Vanderslice.	1900-1902
Marion Rock.	1902-1903
Sidney Clarke.	1903-1904
William P. Campbell.	1904-1924

Secretary

Joseph B. Thoburn.	1919-1926
John Young Bryce	1926-1930
Dan W. Peery	1930-1936

Executive Secretary

James W. Moffitt	1936-1944
Charles Evans.	1944-1954
Muriel H. Wright (Acting)	1954-1955

Administrative Secretary

Elmer Fraker	1955-1972
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Executive Director

V. R. Easterling	1972-1974
Jack Wettengel	1974-1979
H. Glenn Jordan.	1979-1981
C. Earle Metcalf	1981-

APPENDIX II

CHIEF EXECUTIVES--BOARD LEVEL

Presidents

French S. E. Amos	1895-1896
Mort L. Bixby	1896-1898
Lincoln McKinlay	1898-1906
Jasper Sipes	1906-1926
Charles F. Colcord	1926-1935
Thomas H. Doyle	1935-1938
Robert L. Williams	1938-1948
Emma Estill-Harbour	1948-1950
William S. Key	1950-1959
George H. Shirk	1959-1977
W. D. Finney	1977-1980
Jack T. Conn	1980-1984
Denzil D. Garrison	1984-

APPENDIX III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Admire, J.V., 1895-1896, 1900-1901	Colcord, Charles F., 1924-1935
Agnew, Brad, 1985-	Cole, Raymond S., 1948-1959
Allard, Lou, 1961-1974	Coleman, Louis, 1981-1981
Amos, F.S.E., 1895-1896	Conn, Jack T., 1975-
Asher, W.R., 1895-1896	Cook, Frank T., 1900-1901
Asp, Henry E., 1895-1899	Cook, Thomas, G., 1943-1953
Baird, W. David, 1984-	Couch, Edna M., 1981-
Barrett, Charles F., -1945	Crow, Hershhal H., 1975-1975
Bass, H.B., 1951-1975	Curtis, Joe, 1955-1980
Biggerstaff, Jim, 1942-1951	Dale, E.E., 1930-1972
Bishop, J.W., 1898-1899	DeBarr, Edward, 1896-1898
Bixler, Mort L., 1896-1898	Deupree, Harry L., 1971-1983
Blackstock, Ben, 1981-	Dilly, John I., 1895-1918
Blakeley, R.W., 1898-1899	Dolde, A.C., 1895-1899
Bolton, W.E., 1895-1898	Doolin, John B., 1938-1939
Bowman, Edna H., 1957-	Doyle, Thomas H., 1917-1949
Bowman, George L., 1940-1957	Durant, W.A., 1930
Boyd, David Ross, 1895-1903	Easley, John F., 1954-1955
Boydstun, Q.B., 1961-	Edwards, Thomas, 1926-1955
Brewer, Phil D., -1932	English, Exall, 1955-1961
Brouse, Jenny, 1981-1983	Estill-Harbour, Emma, 1921-1967
Brown, E.E., 1901-1903	Evans, Geroge H., 1932-1942
Brown, Kelley, 1955-1961	Everett, Alice, 1976-1981
Buchanan, J.S., 1918-1930	Faulk, Odie B., 1977-
Buckles, J.A., 1896-1899	Felt, Ed, 1903-1904
Buell, Mrs. J. Garfield, 1941-1955	Ferguson, Elva S., 1930-1935
Burke, J.J., 1895-1896, 1899-1900	Ferguson, T.B., 1895-1899
Busby, Orel, 1959-1965	Finnery, W.D., 1961-
Campbell, Harry F., 1930-1950	Fischer, LeRoy H., 1966-
Campbell, J.B., 1898-1899	Flynn, Streeter B., Jr., 1981-
Campbell, O.B., 1972-	Foreman, Grant, 1924-1943
Chapman, Shirley, 1896-1898	Foresman, Bob, 1965-1980
Chapman, B.B., 1951-1967	Frazier, Mrs. J.R., -1931
Chesney, T.A., 1895-1896	Frizzell, Mildred, 1971-1974
Clarke, Sidney, 1896-1906	Frye, E. Moses, 1972-1982
Clift, J.G., 1957-1967	Fuqua, Nolen J., 1968-1981
Cloyd, Richard, 1963-1965	Gardner, James H., 1935-1950
Coffin, Donald L., 1985-	Garrison, Denzil D., 1970-

- Glassen A.C., 1898-1899
 Gibson, A.M., 1967-1981
 Gilstrap, Effie, 1895-1900
 Gilstrap, Harry, 1896-1899
 Golobie, John, -1896
 Green, Donald E., 1978-1981, 1984-
 Greer, F.H., 1896-1906
 Griffith, Brunetta B., 1984-
 Hagerstrand, Martin A., 1981-
 Haley, Jack D., 1981-
 Harrison, Thomas J., 1941-1963
 Harrison, Morton R., 1965-1972
 Hayes, Samuel W., 1935-1941
 Hefley, John T., 1895-1896
 Hefner, Robert A., Sr., 1935-1971
 Hensley, T.F., 1899-1900
 Henthorne, N.G., 1950-1953
 Hill, C.M., 1900-1901
 Himes, C. Forest, 1977-1981
 Hodge, Patt, 1978-1981
 Holt, James H., 1895-1896
 Hoyt, E.W., 1896-1899
 Hunter, C.E., 1895-1896
 Jackson, Berenice, 1981-
 Jarboe, Tom, 1899-1900
 Jenkins, W.M., 1901-1902
 Johnson, Jerre, 1898-1899
 Johnson, N.B., 1950-1966
 Johnson, Roy, 1926-1935
 Johnson, Wayne T., 1955-1963
 Jones, Jenkin Lloyd, 1960-1965
 Kemm, James O., 1983-
 Key, William S., 1927-1959
 Kirkpatrick, John E., 1965-1981
 Korn, Anna B., 1922-1965
 Lawson, Edward C., 1943-1951
 Lawson, Roberta C., 1931-1940
 Lawton, J.W., 1901-1902
 Ledbetter, W.A., 1927-1932
 Lee, Mrs. S.E., 1953-1955
 Leecraft, A.N., 1923-1943
 Little, W.T., 1895-1900
 Lucas, Blanche F., 1924-1951
 Massey, John, 1981-
 McBride, Joe, 1960-1972
 McCalmont, Ralph, 1980-
 McCash, I.N., 1945-1954
 McIntosh, W.E., 1963-1977
 McKinlay, Lincoln, 1898-1906
 McMaster, Frank, 1898-1901
 McNeal, J.W., 1899-1906
 Meserve, John B., 1934-1943
 Milam, J.B., 1940-1949
 Milam, Mrs. J. B., 1949-1950
 Miller, C.H., 1898-1899
 Miller, R.G., 1951-1971
 Mitch, John I., 1896-1898
 Motgomery, T.T., 1951-1954
 Moran, Ruth E., 1981-1984, 1985-
 Moore, Jessie R., 1920-1957
 Morrison, James D., 1955-1977
 Mountcastle, R.M., 1943-1970
 Muldrow, Fisher, 1959-1976
 Muldrow, H.L., Sr., 1941-1951
 Muldrow, H.L., Jr., 1981-1982
 Nesbitt, Margot L., 1975-
 Niblack, Leslie B., 1895-1899
 Northup, Frank B., 1902-1906
 Overstreet, J.A., 1895-1896
 Palmer, T.J., 1898-1899
 Patterson, Zella J., 1983-
 Peery, Dan W., 1920-1930
 Perry, E.H., 1896-1898
 Peter, W.H., 1896-1898
 Peterson, Robert V., 1982-
 Peterson, W.J., 1936-1955
 Pierce, Earl Boyd, 1965-1983
 Phillips, D.B., 1895-1896
 Phillips, H. Milt, 1950-1978
 Raley, John Wesley, 1953-1955
 Randall, J.W., 1896-1899
 Roblin, Mrs. W.A., -1933
 Reaves, Jordan B., 1972-
 Reed, Mrs. Wilis C., 1955-1959
 Renfrow, W.C., 1895-1896
 Rice, W.N., 1896-1898
 Ross, A.J., 1900-1902
 Scott, A.C., 1895-1899
 Seay, A.J., 1895-1899
 Seger, Genevieve, 1955-1981
 Selmon, Lucius, 1981-1983
 Shirk, George H., 1950-1977
 Sipes, Jasper, 1900-1941
 Sneed, R.A., 1920-1936
 Stafford, Roy, 1902-1906
 Stiles, Lewis, 1984-
 Sutton, G.W., 1895-1898
 Tabor, Britton, 1977-1981, 1983-1984
 Taylor, Baxter, 1920-1961
 Thoburn, J.B., 1909-1917, 1932-1938
 Thompson, William P., 1926-1940
 Vaught, Edgar S., 1950-1959

Vincent, Leo, 1895-1898
 Walcher, Ellen K., 1981-
 Walker, Nettie, 1896-1898
 Walker, Will T., 1896-1899
 Walling, Frank, 1895-1896
 Whorton, Lou, 1896-1906
 Wilder, Lou, 1896-1898
 Welch, V.C., 1896-1899, 1901-1906
 Williams, Robert L., 1918-1948
 Wise, Lu Celia, 1981-
 Woods, H. Merle, 1967-1981
 Wright, Muriel H., 1974-1974

May 27, 1893 Oklahoma Historical Society established by the Oklahoma Press Association at Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory. Established as a department of the press association.

May 29, 1893 Circular One issued by the custodian, William P. Campbell, to state the purpose of the organization and ask for historical donations.

August 5, 1893 First issue of Oktober Leaves.

December 18, 1894 A second historical society organized by a history class at the University of Oklahoma.

January 8, 1895 First official recognition by Governor Phillip G. Breckow during his message to the Third Legislative Assembly, Territory of Oklahoma.

January 21, 1895 Articles of Incorporation secured for the Oklahoma Historical Society by the Wynona organization.

February 21, 1895 A law makes the Oklahoma Historical Society a Trustee of the Territory.

March , 1895 Kingfisher organization dissolved and the collection is transferred to the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

July 10, 1895 William P. Campbell resigns as custodian.

February 7, 1901 Historical directors gives permit by special legislative act, to transfer collection from Norman when a fire-proof building was located.

APPENDIX IV

CHRONOLOGY

- May 27, 1893 Oklahoma Historical Society established by the Oklahoma Press Association at Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory. Established as a department of the press association.
- May 29, 1893 Circular One issued by the custodian, William P. Campbell, to state the purpose of the organization and ask for historical donations.
- August 5, 1893 First issue of Mistletoe Leaves.
- December 18, 1894 A second historical society organized by a history class at the University of Oklahoma.
- January 8, 1895 First official recognition by Governor William C. Renfrow during his message to the Third Legislative Assembly, Territory of Oklahoma.
- January 21, 1895 Articles of Incorporation secured for the Oklahoma Historical Society by the Norman organization.
- February 21, 1895 A law makes the Oklahoma Historical Society a Trustee of the Territory.
- March , 1895 Kingfisher organization dissolved and the collection is transferred to the University of Oklahoma, Norman.
- July 10, 1895 William P. Campbell resigns as custodian.
- February 7, 1901 Historical directors given power by special legislative Act, to transfer collection from Norman when a fire-proof building was located.

- January , 1902 Collection transferred to Carnegie Library in Oklahoma City.
- June 1, 1904 William P. Campbell returns as custodian.
- 1905 Review of Inception and Progress, issued by Campbell.
- 1906 Jasper Sipes becomes President of the Oklahoma Historical Society.
- May , 1907 Collection temporarily moved during remodeling of Carnegie Library.
- November 16, 1907 Oklahoma becomes a state.
- 1908 Custodian's Report, 1907-08, issued by Campbell.
- April 24, 1908 State law to transfer seals, records, documents to the Oklahoma Historical Society in certain cases.
- September 15, 1909 First issue of Historia.
- December 17, 1917 Oklahoma Historical Society moves to basement of the State Capitol.
- January , 1921 First issue of Chronicles of Oklahoma.
- March 21, 1921 Act establishing Confederate and Union memorial rooms in the Capitol.
- July 1, 1922 Final issue of Historia.
- March , 1923 Oklahoma Historical Society is host of the 16th Annual Session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.
- May 4, 1924 William P. Campbell dies.
- February , 1926 Charles F. Colcord becomes President of the Oklahoma Historical Society.
- February 1, 1927 Resolution by Grant Foreman to the Board of Directors of the Society to transfer records and documents of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee to the archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

- March 28, 1927 Senate Joint Resolution to furnish monuments, markers to the Oklahoma Historical Society and similar organizations to mark historic sites.
- February 25, 1929 Oklahoma Legislature appropriates \$500,000 for the construction of a Historical Building on the grounds of the State Capitol.
- November 16, 1929 Cornerstone of Historical Building officially laid.
- September 22, 1930 Historical Building completed.
- November 15, 1930 Formal dedication of new building.
- April 23, 1931 Joseph Thoburn removed by executive veto by Governor William H. Murray.
- March 27, 1934 U.S. Congress authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to place records of the Five Civilized Tribes and other Oklahoma Indian Tribes in the Archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Society is made custodian of those records.
- 1934 Indian murals painted on walls of fourth floor museum hallway in Historical Building by Kiowa artists.
- December 10, 1934 Charles F. Colcord dies.
- April 25, 1935 Act providing for Union and Confederate Memorial Halls in the Historical Building.
- November , 1935 Oklahoma Historical Society sponsors white-collar project of the W.P.A.
- December , 1936 Indian-Pioneer History Project of W.P.A. begins under the joint-sponsorship of the Historical Society and the History Department at the University of Oklahoma.
- January 24, 1938 Indian-Pioneer History project ends.
- May , 1938 "Sequoyah Project" and "Robert M. Jones Cemetery Project" of the W.P.A. completed.
- 1941 Final year of W.P.A. projects sponsored by Historical Society.

- March 2, 1941 Joseph Thoburn dies.
- July 12, 1941 Jasper Sipes dies.
- May , 1943 Fiftieth Anniversary meeting post-poned because of war measures.
- July , 1943 Oklahoma War Memorial project authorized by Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society to list Oklahoma war dead, and to be printed in the Chronicles.
- May 27, 1946 Meeting at Kingfisher to commemorate 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PLACE WITH THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, AS CUSTODIAN FOR THE UNITED STATES, CERTAIN RECORDS OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, AND OF OTHER INDIAN TRIBES IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, UNDER RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE PRESCRIBED BY HIM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him, to place with the Oklahoma Historical Society of the State of Oklahoma any records of the Five Civilized Tribes, including the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole, which may be in the custody or control of the Secretary of the Interior and the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes; also of the Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche, Ute, and Apache Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at McAlester, Oklahoma; also of the Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Concho, Oklahoma; also of the Dog and Fox, Fortson, Chickasaw, and Iowa Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Lawton, Oklahoma; also of the Wyandotte, Seneca, Quapaw, Peoria, Kadoe, and Miami Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Miami, Oklahoma; also of the Tonkawa, Ponca, Pawnee, Ute, and Kaw Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Pawnee, Oklahoma; and of the Osage Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Pashonka, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Historical Society is receiving the custody of such papers, records, and matters of historical interest to receive same as custodian for the United States of

APPENDIX V

FEDERAL DOCUMENT

AN ACT

TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PLACE WITH THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, AS CUSTODIAN FOR THE UNITED STATES, CERTAIN RECORDS OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, AND OF OTHER INDIAN TRIBES IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, UNDER RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE PRESCRIBED BY HIM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him, to place with the Oklahoma Historical Society of the State of Oklahoma any records of the Five Civilized Tribes, including the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles, which may be in the custody or control of the Secretary of the Interior and the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes; also of the Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo, and Apache Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Anadarko, Oklahoma; also of the Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Concho, Oklahoma; also of the Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, Kickapoo, and Iowa Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Shawnee, Oklahoma; also of the Wyandotte, Seneca, Quapaw, Peoria, Modoc, and Miami Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Miami, Oklahoma; also of the Tonkawa, Ponca, Pawnee, Otoe, and Kaw Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Pawnee, Oklahoma; and of the Osage Indians that may be within his custody or control or of the agent at Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Historical Society in receiving the custody of such papers, records, and matters of historical interest to receive same as custodian for the United States of

America and the Secretary of the Interior, and to hold same under rules and regulations that may be prescribed by him: Provided, That copies of any documents, records, books, or papers in the office of and custody of Oklahoma Historical Society when certified by the Secretary or Chief Clerk of said society under its seal, or when such office or position is vacant by the officer or person acting as secretary or chief clerk for the time, shall be evidence equally with the original, and in making such certified copies such secretary or acting secretary, and such chief clerk or acting chief clerk shall be acting as a Federal agent, and such certified copies shall have the same force and effect as if made by the Secretary of the Interior when such documents, records, books, or papers were in his office as Secretary of the Interior and certified by him under seal of his office: Provided further, That wherever such certified copies are desired by the Government to be used for the benefit of the Government they shall be furnished without cost: Provided, further, That any of the records placed with the Historical Society shall be promptly returned to the Government official designated by the said Secretary upon his request therefor.

Approved, March 27, 1934.

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE Territory of Oklahoma.

TITLE OF TERRITORY FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

Section 1. That the Oklahoma Historical Society, heretofore organized under the incorporation laws of the Territory, shall be the trustee of the Territory, and as such shall faithfully execute and apply all money received from the Territory in the uses and purposes directed by law, and shall hold all its present and future collected lands and property for the Territory, and shall not sell, mortgage or dispose of in any manner, or remove from the Territory any articles directed or part of the same without authority of law. Nothing herein shall not prevent the sale or exchange of any lands which the society may have or obtain. There shall be organized a board of directors of said society, to consist of as many members as the society shall determine, and who shall have the same powers as the present board of directors.

TITLE OF THE SOCIETY.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the trustee to collect and keep books, maps and other papers and materials illustrative

APPENDIX VI

STATE DOCUMENT

CHAPTER XXVII.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Section.

1. Trustee of Territory for certain purposes.
2. Duties of the society.

Section.

3. Accounts and reports.
4. Appropriation.

AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma:

TRUSTEE OF TERRITORY FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

Section 1. That the Oklahoma Historical Society, heretofore organized under the incorporation laws of the Territory, shall be the trustee of the Territory, and as such shall faithfully expend and apply all money received from the Territory to the uses and purposes directed by law, and shall hold all its present and future collections of property for the Territory, and shall not sell, mortgage or dispose of in any manner, or remove from the university any article thereof or part of the same without authority of law; Provided, This shall not prevent the sale or exchange of any duplicates that the society may have or obtain. There shall continue to be a board of directors of said society, to consist of as many members as the society shall determine, and who shall have the same powers as the present board of directors.

DUTIES OF THE SOCIETY.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the society to collect books, maps and other papers and materials illustrative

of the history of Oklahoma in particular and the west generally; to procure from the early settlers narratives of events relative to the early settlement of Oklahoma and to the early explorations, Indian occupancy and overland travel in the Territory and the west; to procure facts and statements relative to the history and conduct of our Indian tribes and to gather all information calculated to exhibit faithfully the antiquities and the past and present condition, resources and progress of the commonwealth; to purchase books to supply deficiencies in the various departments of its collections and to procure by gift and exchange such scientific and historical reports of the legislatures of other states, of railroads, reports of geological and other scientific surveys, and such other books, maps, charts and other information as will facilitate the investigation of historical, scientific, social, educational and literary subjects, and to cause them to be properly bound; to catalogue the collections of said society for the more convenient reference of all persons who may have occasion to consult the same; to annually prepare for publication a report of its collections and such other matters relating to its transactions as may be useful to the public; and to keep its collections arranged in suitable and convenient rooms, to be provided and furnished by the society as the board of directors may determine; the rooms of the society to be open at all reasonable hours on business days for the reception of the citizens of this commonwealth, who may wish to visit the same, without fee: Provided, That no expenditure shall be made under this act, or expense incurred except in pursuance of specific appropriations therefor, and no officer of said society shall pledge the credit of the commonwealth in excess of such appropriation.

ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

Sec. 3. The board of directors shall keep a correct account of the expenditures of all money which may be appropriated in aid of the society and report annually to the governor a detailed statement of such expenditure. To enable the society to augment its collections by effecting exchanges with other societies and institutions, sixty bound copies each, of the several publications of the commonwealth and of its societies and institutions, except the reports of the supreme court, shall be, and the same are hereby donated to said Oklahoma Historical Society as they shall be issued, the same to be delivered to the society by the secretary of state or other officer having custody of the same, to include also for deposit in its collections two sets of all the publications of the commonwealth heretofore issued, not excepting the supreme court reports. The society shall not expend its resources in procuring duplicates of such publications as may be in the University library.

APPROPRIATION.

Sec. 4. For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this act the sum of two thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, from the Territorial treasury, to, on the warrant of the Territorial auditor, be paid on the order of the treasurer of the Oklahoma Historical Society, such order being countersigned by the president and secretary of said society.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 21, 1895.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF SEALS, RECORDS AND
OTHER PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS TO THE OKLAHOMA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN CERTAIN CASES, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of
Oklahoma:

RECORDS MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Section 1. It shall be lawful for any official or other person within this State, having custody of any seal, record, original paper or other document not required by the law of this State to be retained as a part of the records of a public office, to transfer the same to the Oklahoma Historical Society, and such certified copy shall be received in evidence and have the same force and effect as the original; the fee for such certification shall be paid by the party applying therefor, and shall be in amounts such as is allowed by law to officials for like services, and all fees so received shall be for the benefit of the society.

Provided, no fees shall be charged for certified copies when required in the transaction of the business of the State.

Sec. 2. An emergency is hereby declared, by reason whereof it is necessary, for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, that this Act take effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved April 24, 1908.

APPENDIX VII

STATE DOCUMENT

AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF SEALS, RECORDS AND OTHER PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS TO THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN CERTAIN CASES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oklahoma:

RECORDS MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Section 1. It shall be lawful for any official or other person within this State, having custody of any seal, record, original paper or other document not required by the laws of this State to be retained as a part of the records of a public office, to transfer the same to the Oklahoma Historical Society, and such certified copy shall be received in evidence and have the same force and effect as the original; the fees for such certificates shall be paid by the party applying therefor, and shall be in amounts such as is allowed by law to officials for like services; and all fees so received shall be for the benefit of the society.

Provided, no fees shall be charged for certified copies when required in the transaction of the business of the State.

Sec. 2. An emergency is hereby declared, by reason whereof it is necessary, for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, that this Act take effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved April 24, 1908.

APPROPRIATION

Section 1. For the purpose of the erection and construction of a building to be used and occupied by the Oklahoma Historical Society and providing headquarters and offices for Union Soldiers and Marines, Confederate Soldiers and Marines, and their auxiliaries, Spanish American War Veterans, and their auxiliaries, all veteran and service organizations, including the American Legion, and other patriotic organizations and associations, there is hereby appropriated out of the general fund of the State of Oklahoma, not exceeding the sum of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars. Provided, that all contracts made for an amount not exceeding \$10,000.00 under this act, and all and every contracts made for an amount exceeding \$10,000.00 under this act, shall be subject to the approval of the State Board of Affairs.

APPENDIX VIII

STATE DOCUMENT

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Chapter 45. Oklahoma Historical Society Building.

CHAPTER 45.
SENATE BILL NO. 24.

Oklahoma Historical Society Building.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING TO BE LOCATED ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS IN OKLAHOMA CITY TO BE USED BY THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALL ORGANIZATIONS OF ALL VETERAN SOLDIERS AND SAILORS AND PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, SAID BUILDING TO PROVIDE ROOMS FOR MEETINGS AND HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL ORGANIZATIONS OF SERVICE MEN AND AUXILIARY SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS IN THIS STATE AND FOR THE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF SAID BUILDING BY THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ITS LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND OTHER EFFECTS AND PROPERTY AND FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS THEREIN AND ITS USE FOR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAID BUILDING TO BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE STATE BOARD OF AFFAIRS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAID BUILDING TO BE LOCATED ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "KESSLER PLAN" AND THE ARCHITECT'S PLANS TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR SAID PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Oklahoma:

APPROPRIATION.

Section 1. For the purpose of the erection and construction of a building to be used and occupied by the Oklahoma Historical Society and providing headquarters and offices for Union Soldiers and Marines, Confederate Soldiers and Marines, and their auxiliaries, Spanish American War Veterans, and their auxiliaries, and all veteran and service organizations, including their auxiliaries, and other patriotic organizations and associations, there is hereby appropriated out of the public building funds of the State of Oklahoma, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars. Provided, that all contracts made for any purpose under the provisions of this act, and all and every expense incurred for the construction and completion of said building or structure and for the equipment of the same shall not exceed the total sum of said appropriation, namely, Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars, and other appropriated sums, and other sums in hand from private and public agencies then and there and from time to time available for such purposes.

BUILDING-LOCATION STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Section 2. The location of said building on the Capitol Grounds shall be in accordance with the plan heretofore adopted on the part of the state and known as the "Kessler Plan." The construction of the building shall be under the direction and supervision of the State Board of Public Affairs, subject to the approval and controlling supervision of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, or a committee or commission out of the membership of said board appointed for such purposes by said society; provided, that before the contract is awarded the architect's plans for said building shall be first approved by the board of directors of the Historical Society; and, Provided further, that said contract before becoming effective is to be approved by the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, or a committee out of its membership, named for that purpose by said "The Oklahoma Historical Society"; and, provided further, that the architect's plans may not be changed except by the approval of the board of directors of the Historical Society; and, Provided further, that the specifications may not be changed except on the approval of said board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society or a committee and of its membership appointed by it to pass on such matters; and, Provided further, that the contract for the construction of said building shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and that such contractor shall execute in some surety company doing business in the State of Oklahoma approved not only by the Insurance Commissioner of said state but also by

the Treasury Department of the United States to execute bonds in such sum and to do business in the state in the district comprising the State Capitol of said state, and such bond to be in terms and amount as may be prescribed by law, and if not prescribed by law then by the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society or a committee out of its membership appointed by it to pass on such matters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-ACCEPTANCE OF BUILDING.

Sec. 3. It is provided further, that the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society may select a superintendent to supervise the construction of said building, said inspection to be made in conjunction with inspection to be made by the architect drawing the plans, to be a joint supervision on the part of the State Board of Public Affairs and the Oklahoma Historical Society, and that said building is not to be accepted as completed except by the joint concurrences of the State Board of Public Affairs and a committee composed of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society appointed by the board of directors of the Historical Society to act jointly with the said State Board of Public Affairs for such purpose.

SUPERINTENDENT-APPROPRIATION.

Sec. 4. There is appropriated out of the public building funds of the State of Oklahoma, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars, for the purpose of paying said superintendent and also any actual and reasonable necessary expense incurred by the Historical Society; provided, that no member of the board of directors of the Historical Society, or any one representing the Historical Society, other than said superintendent, is to draw any compensation other than the actual and reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the duties contemplated by this act.

EMERGENCY.

Sec. 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 25, 1929.

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