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THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

SOCIAL CHANGES IN OKLAHOMA CITY FROM 1899 TO 1930.

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

by

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The occupations and characteristics of the population of Oklahoma City were studied in regard to race, sex, and nationality for the years 1899 and 1930 to discover whether the population had changed in these respects.

A summary: NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY  
 People who lived in Oklahoma City in 1899 and 1930.

This study was made in an effort to determine some of the social changes in Oklahoma City from 1899 to 1930. The manner of the settlement of the city has been described and the origins of its population given.

Samples of the population of Oklahoma City were studied in regard to occupations and places of residence. All occupational groups were divided into two divisions: the working class and the business class. All who earned their living largely by the use of their hands were classed as workers. The others were called business people. The first sample studied was from the people living in the city in 1899, the date of the earliest available city directory. Other samples of the population were studied for the years 1910, 1920, and 1930. An effort was made to discover whether the occupations of the people in Oklahoma City bore any relation to their place of residence and whether there was any noticeable shift in the best residential district as shown by the occupations of the people living in different sections of the city in different years.

A study was made to see if there was any correlation between the occupation of the people and their mobility.

The composition and characteristics of the population of Oklahoma City were studied in regard to race, sex, and nationality for the years 1910 and 1930 to discover whether the population had changed in these respects.

A comparison was made between the social attitudes of the people who lived in Oklahoma City in 1899 and 1930.

Histories, newspapers, city directories, and the United States Census reports were the principal sources of the material. Telephone directories and pamphlets from the Chamber of Commerce were consulted for statistical data for the year 1930. Interviews of reliable early day settlers furnished some facts. Some of the material is the result of personal observations.

On Monday, April 23, 1899, on the present site of Oklahoma City, where buildings stood along the Santa Fe Railroad in the bend of the North Fork of the Canadian River. They were the depot, warehouse, postoffice building, a government building, the head of the railroad agent, a boarding house, and an old stockade used by a stage company for an office. On the high ground northwest of the depot that evening were four companies of United States Infantry and a

1. The General Land Office. Vol. 23, p. 60.  
2. Histories of the United States 1892-93.

## CHAPTER I

## EARLY HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The present site of Oklahoma City was part of the territory set apart by Congress in 1834, under the name of Indian Territory, as the possession of the five southern tribes and the Quapaw Agency.<sup>1</sup> In 1889 this site was part of an unassigned tract in the center of the Territory. March 2, 1889 Congress appropriated money to purchase title to this unassigned land from the Seminole and Creek Indians.<sup>2</sup> Soon after the purchase, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation announcing that this land would be opened to homestead settlement at twelve o'clock noon, on April 22, 1889.

On Sunday, April 21, 1889, on the present site of Oklahoma City, seven buildings stood along the Santa Fe Railroad in the bend of the North Fork of the Canadian River. They were: the depot, section house, postoffice building, a government building, the home of the railroad agent, a boarding house, and an old stockade used by a stage company for an office. On the high ground northeast of the depot that morning were four companies of United States Infantry and a

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1. The Encyclopaedia Britannica. Vol. 22, p. 60.  
2. Statutes of the United States 1888-89.

troop of Cavalry.

In the evening, the south bound train carried a crowd of eager passengers. The guard at the depot prevented all but a few who eluded them from coming on the forbidden ground. The soldiers were here to preserve order and enforce the regulations prescribed for the opening. -3.

Monday, April 23, 1889, was a perfect day. Not a breath of air was stirring. Where Oklahoma City now stands was an unbroken prairie, low and level in the loop of the North Canadian River, but rising and uneven to the north. The land had been burned clean and in the morning was covered with new spring grass and wild flowers. In the evening all this was crushed by the hurrying feet of thousands of men, the tramp of many horses' hoofs and the wheels of many vehicles. For this was the day that Oklahoma City was born. In the morning it had no inhabitants. In the evening it had a population of ten thousand persons. 4.

At noon on Monday, the twenty-second, the soldiers congregated at the Santa Fe depot to await the result of the signal which had been given to the crowds outside the Oklahoma boundary. At fifteen minutes after noon the representatives of the Seminole Land and Town Company stepped off the Santa Fe right of way and began laying off lots on Main Street. This was a corporation formed in Kansas before

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3. Luther B. Hill, A History of the State of Oklahoma, p. 216.

4. A. C. Scott, "The Founding of Oklahoma City", W. F. Kerr and Ina Gainer, The Story of Oklahoma City, Vol. 1, p. 61.

the opening. These parties and their followers were afterwards known as the "Seminoles". At twenty minutes past twelve, tents dotted the country as far as one could see. Fifteen miles away was the nearest legitimate starting point. These men were evidently "sooners".

It has been claimed the Seminole incorporators did some surveying at night, so as to have everything in such a condition, that they could seize the townsite instantly at 12 o'clock, on April twenty-second.

The land they intended to take, cornered at where Reno Avenue now crosses the Santa Fe Railroad, and ran west in the middle of Reno Avenue, one-half mile, to what is now Walker Street, then to a point very near what is now the corner of Tenth and Walker Streets and east from that point to the Santa Fe track, and then down the track to the place of beginning. The Santa Fe road does not run due north from Reno Avenue but bears a little to the east. The "Seminoles" ran their east and west streets at right angles to the Santa Fe track which caused all these streets to bear a little to the north of a line running due east.

The "Seminoles'" survey located Main Street where it now is, and located a street south of Main Street which they named Clarke Street, and two other streets south of that, and located Broadway, Robinson, Harvey, and Hudson Streets where they now lie. They also

5. Luther B. Hill, op. cit., p. 239.

6. Ibid., pp. 217, 218.

11. Luther B. Hill, op. cit., p. 218.



located First to Seventh Streets as they now lie. <sup>7.</sup>

At nineteen minutes past one o'clock there arrived after a hard ride from the Canadian River to the southwest, a party of <sup>8.</sup> Kansans who had conformed to the conditions of the run. They were members of the Oklahoma Town Company, which had been formed at Colony, Kansas, and was afterwards known as the "Colony Crowd". <sup>9</sup> As soon as they arrived, they proceeded to survey and lay out the government reservation, east of the Santa Fe railroad, not knowing that it had been reserved for military purposes. When they were advised of this, the whole company went back across the railroad and erected a large tent on the spot recently occupied by the First National bank. They immediately proclaimed an election for city officers. <sup>10.</sup>

The first train arrived from Purcell, at 2:05 P. M. As soon as it crossed the river men began jumping from the windows. Each one had a stake ready and the crowd ran in all directions to find a place to drive stakes. One old lady drove her stake between the railroad ties and was with difficulty convinced by the soldiers that the right of way was not open to settlement. It is said that twenty-five hundred people came with this train. <sup>11.</sup>

By three o'clock the train arrived from the north with hundreds of passengers. Then came trainload after trainload, by the

7. Ibid., p. 240.

8. Ibid., p. 218.

9. Ibid., p. 239.

10. A. C. Scott, "The Story of Oklahoma City", The Daily Oklahoman, April 23, 1929.

11. Luther B. Hill, op. cit., p. 218.

Santa Fe from North and South. Every coach was filled and even the roof of every car was packed with men. The whole country where Oklahoma City now stands was a mass of running, yelling men. All afternoon men were driving stakes and setting up tents over the town site. This went on until seven o'clock when the odor of coffee and the sound of frying bacon announced the evening meal.

At night this city of tents could be seen by the fitful campfires and lanterns. There were tents as far as the eye could see, some old and soiled, but most of them new and very white. It looked like a fragile and temporary city, but these homes of canvass gave their owners a permanent title to the soil. The tents were soon replaced by wooden buildings and then by brick, stone, concrete, and steel.

12.

"The night was cold and clear and 6,000 people were without shelter. New York and Georgia were bed-mates that night. Ohio and California rested upon each other's bosom. Michigan and Arkansas walked arm in arm the livelong night to keep their blood in circulation. Texas and Missouri were as loving sisters."

13

More than two hundred more arrived Monday night. Tuesday morning the city was early astir. Things to eat were in great demand. Lunch counter owners reaped a rich reward.

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12. A. C. Scott, "The Founding of Oklahoma City", W. F. Kerr and Ina Gainer, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 65.  
 13. Kerr and Gainer, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 691.  
 14. Ibid.

On the day following the opening of Oklahoma, a gambler from Chicago took possession of the only pump in town and sold water at five cents a drink. He sat near the pump and was armed with a revolver. He collected the money and had a man pump the water. There were over 12,000 people camped on the site of Oklahoma City at that time and besides this pump there were only two other places where water could be had - one a well with a bucket where there was but little water, and the other at the railroad tank, and here the supply was limited.

The people were suffering for water and appealed to Captain Stiles to remove this man, saying if he did not do so they would hang him. Captain Stiles found that the gambler had no right to the pump or water, so he at once removed him and placed a guard over the pump with orders to allow each person to have one bucket of water.

15.

The second morning operations were renewed with vigor. Some hastily thrown together wooden shacks began to appear. People began to wonder where they were getting with all the struggle. Everyone wanted lots but the town was not laid out in lots. Every stake represented a gamble. It might be on a lot, or prove to be in a street or an alley when lots should be established. About noon a small group of men strangers to each other decided the only way toward a solution of the confusion was to call a mass meeting. Half a dozen boys were given bells and placed on ponies and told to ride all over the town-site calling the people together to a meeting at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Everyone came. This meeting raged for three hours on that Tuesday afternoon. <sup>16</sup> A large box served as a platform for the chairman and a smaller one for the secretary. It was finally decided to elect a committee of fourteen men with power to divide the townsite into lots, streets, and alleys. The manner of this election was unique. All were strangers to each other. When the first man was nominated there was a cry of "Let's see him". He was then hurried through the crowd and pulled and boosted to the boxes where the chairman and secretary stood. This proceeding was carried out with each man placed in nomination. If the crowd liked his looks they voted for him, if not, they voted against him. The chairman had to decide which side won by the strength of the roars for or against the candidate. There was one other qualification besides looks for the members of this committee, and that was that no two men should have come from the same state. So the Committee of Fourteen represented fourteen states of the Union. <sup>17</sup>

The Committee met that night in a large tent, which was flapped by the April breeze and lighted by lanterns and torches. They worked until far past midnight, appointing a surveyor, who with his party would measure off the lots, streets, and alleys. They also appointed a sub-committee of five to follow the surveyor and settle the disputes of the contesting claimants to the lots as to who legally got there first. <sup>18</sup>

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16. Ibid., p. 66.

17. Ibid., p. 69.

18. Ibid., p. 70.

Main Street by night had many houses completed and in the course of construction. Each train brought numerous new citizens from all parts of the country. Ten thousand people camped by the second night. In the bend of the river people swarmed and camp fires glittered.

About ten o'clock Tuesday night a man in camp down by the river missed one of his mules. He told his neighbors of his loss and went into the woods to hunt the stray animal. A friend of the animal's owner found the mule shortly afterwards. This man had a deep and strong voice. He called out, "Chi Joel Here's your mule". It was a very quiet night and the shout was heard for a long distance. One after another relayed the message and in less than three minutes 10,000 men were contesting with each other to see who could yell the loudest, "Chi Joel Here's your mule!". It was the mightiest shout ever heard in the valley of the North Canadian and was kept up until the soldiers on the two hills, over a half a mile away heard and joined the general bedlam.

Wednesday morning the surveyors started at the government corner on the Reno line near the Santa Fe track, and ran directly west on what is now Reno Avenue and established that street and named it Reno Avenue.

As soon as the lots were marked off, the sub-committee began to work, passing from lot to lot hearing the evidence and deciding the cases of the parties contesting for the lots.

An immense crowd accompanied this committee, so that the press of the throng became so great that three long boards were nailed together forming a triangle, within which the committee were protected from the crowd. This triangle was carried along by the inner circle of spectators and enabled the tribunal to move more comfortably on its way.

20.

The Citizen's survey located their north and south streets at the points where the streets now run north from Reno Avenue and laid out California Avenue and Grand Avenue running straight east and west. The streets running north and south did not quite meet the streets fixed by the Seminole survey, and Clark Street of the Seminole survey was fifty feet north of Grand Avenue. The Citizen's survey destroyed Clarke Street and established Grand Avenue.

It was evident if this survey continued, Main Street would be moved fifty feet south and Broadway where it crossed Main Street would be moved west about half its width, as would all the other north and south streets. This would deprive all who had settled according to the Seminole survey of their lots and improvements.

A mass meeting was called Saturday morning similar to the one of the previous Tuesday. This meeting was not so tumultuous but more intense. There were two factions, one who wanted to abide by the Seminole survey; the other favored the Citizen's survey of the committee of fourteen. Each side chose five men. These ten went to work to

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20. A. C. Scott, "The Story of Oklahoma City", The Daily Oklahoman, April 27, 1929.

effect a compromise. A civil engineer was called in to help make an adjustment.

It was finally agreed to let the Citizen's survey stand from Reno Avenue up to and including Grand Avenue and the Seminole survey to stand on Main Street and all streets north of Main. The jogs in the north and south streets were placed at Grand Avenue. Since Grand Avenue was fifty feet farther south than Clarke Avenue had been, the distance between Main Street and Grand Avenue was greater than the length of two lots and an alley. As Grand ran directly east and west and Main Street did not run straight west but bore a little to the north, the distance between Main Street and Grand Avenue widened as it went west.

In order to provide all lots fronting on Grand Avenue and Main Street with an alley at their back, two alleys were put between these two streets and the space left was divided into lots fronting on the north and south streets, two narrow lots at the east end of the town and three wide lots at the west end of town.

Since the east and west streets of the Seminole survey do not run directly east and west and since all new additions to Oklahoma City do have their east and west streets run directly east and west, there is a bend in each of these streets at the east and west lines of the old city plat.

21.

As only three hundred and twenty acres could be taken for one

townsite, and as there were so many people here, a crowd composed largely of people from Texas organized what was known as South Oklahoma. This was platted immediately south of Reno Avenue with east and west streets directly east and west, and hence there are no bends in these streets when extended through additions. The north and south streets did not meet the north and south streets of the Citizen's survey, and hence there are jogs on Reno Avenue where these streets meet.

A man by the name of Dale owned forty acres between Park Place and Thirteenth Street. Since the Santa Fe Railroad does not run due north and south, the distance between the railroad and Broadway kept getting greater the farther north it ran. At Park Place the distance was greater than a block but not large enough for two blocks, so Mr. Dale bent Broadway to the west and placed a street called Dale Avenue between Broadway and the railroad. The man that owned the land north of Mr. Dale's land bent Broadway back again where it would have been if Mr. Dale had not changed its direction, hence a jog also on Thirteenth and Broadway.<sup>22</sup>

These, of course, were later additions. The Oklahoma City of that first week extended from the Santa Fe Railroad on the east to Walker Avenue on the west, and from Reno Avenue on the south to Eighth Street on the north.

At the close of a week of intense activity, Main Street and Broadway were clearly defined, and shacks were being put up in great

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<sup>22</sup>. Ibid, p. 243.



haste. There was an incessant sound of hammer and saw. Several wells were sunk. One was at the intersection of Main and Broadway, where water was sold at a nickel a cup.<sup>23.</sup>

The first Sunday was a beautiful day. Everyone began to feel that the townsite troubles were settled. While some building was continued, there were church services in at least two places.<sup>24.</sup> At the well near Main and Broadway a Presbyterian service was conducted before a large crowd, and about three blocks north was a Methodist Church South Sunday School. In the afternoon many people rode or walked out into "the country", which was as far as Sixteenth Street is today.<sup>25.</sup>

One city was called Oklahoon and the southern city was called Scott Oklahoon. Each city had 320 acres. South Oklahoon lay wholly on the bottom land which sloped toward the river, but its nearest trees were half a mile away from the Canadian River banks. The southern half of Oklahoon lay on bottom land but its northern half was on the hill sides that rose gradually until they reached a height of approximately 100 feet. Then the land rolled away into a fine rolling prairie. The river was skirted with a heavy belt of timber which was usually a about half a mile wide, but there were no trees on either town site.

Since Oklahoon City lay in a bend of the Canadian River, the trees formed a semicircle around the city and afforded a beautiful view to those on the low hills. The view was not as peaceful as

23. Scott, op. cit., April 29, 1929.

24. Ibid. <sup>24.</sup> <sup>25.</sup> <sup>26.</sup> <sup>27.</sup> <sup>28.</sup> <sup>29.</sup> <sup>30.</sup> <sup>31.</sup> <sup>32.</sup> <sup>33.</sup> <sup>34.</sup> <sup>35.</sup> <sup>36.</sup> <sup>37.</sup> <sup>38.</sup> <sup>39.</sup> <sup>40.</sup> <sup>41.</sup> <sup>42.</sup> <sup>43.</sup> <sup>44.</sup> <sup>45.</sup> <sup>46.</sup> <sup>47.</sup> <sup>48.</sup> <sup>49.</sup> <sup>50.</sup> <sup>51.</sup> <sup>52.</sup> <sup>53.</sup> <sup>54.</sup> <sup>55.</sup> <sup>56.</sup> <sup>57.</sup> <sup>58.</sup> <sup>59.</sup> <sup>60.</sup> <sup>61.</sup> <sup>62.</sup> <sup>63.</sup> <sup>64.</sup> <sup>65.</sup> <sup>66.</sup> <sup>67.</sup> <sup>68.</sup> <sup>69.</sup> <sup>70.</sup> <sup>71.</sup> <sup>72.</sup> <sup>73.</sup> <sup>74.</sup> <sup>75.</sup> <sup>76.</sup> <sup>77.</sup> <sup>78.</sup> <sup>79.</sup> <sup>80.</sup> <sup>81.</sup> <sup>82.</sup> <sup>83.</sup> <sup>84.</sup> <sup>85.</sup> <sup>86.</sup> <sup>87.</sup> <sup>88.</sup> <sup>89.</sup> <sup>90.</sup> <sup>91.</sup> <sup>92.</sup> <sup>93.</sup> <sup>94.</sup> <sup>95.</sup> <sup>96.</sup> <sup>97.</sup> <sup>98.</sup> <sup>99.</sup> <sup>100.</sup> <sup>101.</sup> <sup>102.</sup> <sup>103.</sup> <sup>104.</sup> <sup>105.</sup> <sup>106.</sup> <sup>107.</sup> <sup>108.</sup> <sup>109.</sup> <sup>110.</sup> <sup>111.</sup> <sup>112.</sup> <sup>113.</sup> <sup>114.</sup> <sup>115.</sup> <sup>116.</sup> <sup>117.</sup> <sup>118.</sup> <sup>119.</sup> <sup>120.</sup> <sup>121.</sup> <sup>122.</sup> <sup>123.</sup> <sup>124.</sup> <sup>125.</sup> <sup>126.</sup> <sup>127.</sup> <sup>128.</sup> <sup>129.</sup> <sup>130.</sup> <sup>131.</sup> <sup>132.</sup> <sup>133.</sup> <sup>134.</sup> <sup>135.</sup> <sup>136.</sup> <sup>137.</sup> <sup>138.</sup> <sup>139.</sup> <sup>140.</sup> <sup>141.</sup> <sup>142.</sup> <sup>143.</sup> <sup>144.</sup> <sup>145.</sup> <sup>146.</sup> <sup>147.</sup> <sup>148.</sup> <sup>149.</sup> <sup>150.</sup> <sup>151.</sup> <sup>152.</sup> 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25. Ibid.

morning before this paper went to press and the grand total was found to be 349. Many of these were small but 50 percent of them were good substantial structures. There were 212 buildings on the six principal streets, 123 buildings in the business part of the city and 204 in the strictly residential part.

## CHAPTER II.

### INCREASING URBANIZATION.

The Oklahoma Gazette was the first daily paper published in Oklahoma City. The first issue was dated May 21, 1889. It contained a description of Oklahoma City at that time. Oklahoma City was really two cities at first with Reno Avenue as the dividing line. The northern city was called Oklahoma and the southern city was called South Oklahoma. Each city had 320 acres. South Oklahoma lay wholly on the bottom land which sloped toward the river, but its nearest lines were half a mile away from the Canadian River banks. The southern half of Oklahoma lay on bottom land but its northern half was on the hill sides that rose gradually until they reached a height of seventy-five to one hundred feet. Then the land rolled away into a fine upland prairie. The river was skirted with a heavy belt of timber which was usually a about half a mile wide, but there were no trees in either town site.

Since Oklahoma City lay in a bend of the Canadian River, the trees formed a semicircle around the city and afforded a beautiful view to those on the low hills. The scene was not so peaceful as this description sounds because the din of hammer and saw made it seem a veritable battle-field. The buildings were counted the Saturday

morning before this paper went to press and the grand total was found to be 949. Many of them were small but 40 percent of them were good substantial structures. There were 519 buildings on the six principal streets, 121 buildings in the business part of the city and 308 in the strictly residential part. Oklahoma City, although not quite a month old, had a population of 5,000 people and a prospect of three times that number when the men brought their families. It had 10 miles of streets and avenues, two of which were being graded, and almost 1,000 houses.

The Oklahoma Gazette of May 22, 1889 gave a description of Reno Avenue and listed its buildings. Commencing at the east there was a lumber company whose owner came from Kansas City. Next to it was another lumber company whose owner was from Indian Territory. At the corner of Reno and Broadway there was a drug store whose owner came from Kansas. At the store was a physician from Wichita, Kansas. Across the street was a dealer in pumps who made a specialty of bored wells. Then there was a theatre building 20 feet by 60 feet whose owners were from Texas. A boarding house, real estate office, blacksmith shop and restaurant were located in this block. At the corner of Robinson and Reno Avenue was another blacksmith shop. Next to it was a real estate office, then livery stable 25 feet by 30 feet and well stocked, and a hotel 30 feet by 20 feet. After these were three business establishments; a blacksmith shop, real estate office, and dry goods store 20 feet by 40 feet, whose owners were from Kansas. Next was a meat market, a doctor from Kansas, a real estate firm from

Kansas, a grocery with owner from Texas and another grocery whose owner was from the Choctaw Nation. These were followed by a grain company from Texas and a hardware store whose owner was from Texas.

The Oklahoma Gazette of Thursday May 23, 1899 described California Avenue. It was the first street staked and as no conflicting interests changed its lines, it had grown steadily. It had the first hotel, the first restaurant and the first brick block. At the east end of the street was the Santa Fe depot. The depot was 25 feet by 60 feet and small for the rapidly growing town.

Oklahoma City had 43 lawyers, 37 doctors, and 29 surveyors and engineers. The paper listed the business firms in the order in which the buildings were located on the street and gave the states from which the owners came.

On California Avenue there were two surveyors, five attorneys, three barber shops, two bakeries, a club and bazaar, three general stores, three real estate firms, three restaurants, a lunch counter, a clothing house, a dry goods store, a confectionery and cigar store, a grocery and boots and shoes store, a grocery and feed store, six drug stores, three hardware stores, an iron works and roofing firm, five grocery stores, a lightning rod man, a brick yard, a confectionery, two doctors, a lumber company, a meat market, a "bath house where a man can get a first class bath in a genuine bath tub", a furniture store, a flour and feed store, a paint shop, a contractor and builder's firm, a shoemaker, and a livery stable.

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The owners of 17 of the different places of business came from Texas. Kansas was represented by 14 establishments. Illinois had five owners of businesses, Colorado one, Kentucky four, Purcell two, Missouri five, and California one.

On May 27, 1889, Grand Avenue business firms were published. They consisted of a harness shop, a boot and shoemaker, two barber shops, a grocery, meat market, lumber company, hardware store, real estate firm, and sign writer. Three proprietors came from Texas, three from Kansas, two from Illinois, one from Missouri, and one from Colorado.

On May 29, 30, and 31, 1889, Main Street was described and its business firms listed and native states of the owners given. Tennessee, Washington, D. C., Indiana, Iowa, Arkansas, Ohio, Nebraska, and Alaska were added to the places that had already been named.

On June 1 and 3, 1889, First Street was included among the streets described. This street had business men from New Mexico and Minnesota in addition to men from the states already named. The proprietors of the business interests named came from 19 different states or territories.

The Oklahoma Gazette on June 4, 1889 described Santa Fe Street and Alley. The street ran parallel with the railroad right of way from Grand Avenue and California Street and extended from Santa Fe to Broadway. It was filled with lodging houses and restaurants, and contained most of the gambling houses. Besides some business companies this street had a shooting gallery and a stage company which sent stage

coaches from Oklahoma City to Fort Reno by way of Frisco and other towns.

The Oklahoma Gazette of June 5, 1889 gave a summary of what Oklahoma City contained when it was just 42 days old and when there had been just six weeks from bare prairie to a complete city. There were in Oklahoma City about 280 different business establishments. These consisted of 24 groceries, 18 drug stores, 15 dry goods stores, 13 hardware stores, seven flour and feed stores, nine hotels, five bakeries, 31 restaurants, two ice cream parlors, 12 barber shops, 15 confectionery, fruit and vegetable stores, 11 meat markets, two pump and hose houses, three well boring and drilling establishments, seven blacksmith shops, one stone cutting business, seven brick yards, 27 lumber yards, four banks, nine paint shops, 34 painters, three tin shops, two furniture stores, two undertakers, one news stand, one ten cent store, two wall paper stores, one paint manufacturer, three dress-makers, 27 surveyors and engineers, 29 real estate firms with 46 members, 23 law firms with 42 members, three shoemakers, two lightning rod men, two ice men, six milkmen, two auctioneers, some questionable resorts but no saloons, 25 medical firms and 43 doctors in them, two daily and three weekly newspapers, and one job office with 27 persons engaged in the business.

In exactly ten days from this report the newspaper gave a similar revised account of business. In this time it was shown that the groceries had increased 33 per cent, the drug stores 22 per cent, the dry goods stores 86 per cent, the hardware stores 53 per cent, the

flour and feed stores 56 per cent. There was one more hotel, two more bakeries, six more restaurants, five more ice cream parlors, two more barber shops, six more confectionery and fruit stores, four more meat markets, two more well boring and drilling establishments, two more blacksmith shops, four more tin shops, three more furniture stores, two more news stands, two more dressmakers, one more real estate man, one more auctioneer, and four more doctors. In addition at the end of seven weeks of city growth there were 11 laundries, three billiard halls, two gun shops, two dentists, 175 contractors, carpenters, and wood workers, 57 drays, buses, and express wagons, one coal dealer, one dealer in lime, four music teachers, three teachers of painting, three photograph galleries, two theatres, four organized church societies, one private school, a board of trade, and one fire company.

On June 17, 1889 the Oklahoma Gazette published a census. Within the city limits were found 736 children, 721 women, and 2,681 men. Just outside the city limits were 327 settlers and 600 soldiers. There were 419 transients in town that day. The papers estimated about 439 had been omitted in this census. This made a total of 5,923 people that day in Oklahoma City and its immediate neighborhood.

Reporters counted 1131 frame houses and 472 homes part canvas, and tents. This made 1,603 homes occupied in 1889. By 1910 the number of dwellings was 11,516.

In 1890 the yield of cotton was found to be dependable and sufficient to warrant the creation of two cotton gins in Oklahoma City.

In 1892 it was claimed that Oklahoma City had 8,000 people. A Texas newspaper complimented the city on having "a brick jail, a grist mill,<sup>2.</sup> an ice factory and several churches". The city's first water<sup>3.</sup> system was completed in 1893. A milling company was organized in<sup>4.</sup> 1894 which erected the first large manufactory of flour in the city. In 1895 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad into Oklahoma City was<sup>5.</sup> completed. This was afterward called the Rock Island, and gave Oklahoma City its second railroad, the Santa Fe having been built before the opening. In this same year two large school buildings were completed. The number of children enrolled in the school at this time<sup>6.</sup> was 800. The land east of the Santa Fe tracks that had been occupied by the United States soldiers was added to Oklahoma City and known as<sup>7.</sup> Maywood Addition. Oklahoma City Directory for 1893 and 1894 there was a<sup>8.</sup> A large cotton compress and 150-barrel flour mill and 100,000 bushel grain elevator were erected in 1897. In 1898 the Frisco Rail-<sup>9.</sup> road became the third railroad to enter the city. This was one of the most important acquisitions of the city and helped it to become the state's largest city. The site of the public library at its present

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2. Ibid., p. 137. 27 to 30. Oklahoma City in 1893 had 80 schools.

3. Ibid., p. 141.

4. Ibid., p. 159.

5. Ibid., p. 161.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p. 174.

8. Ibid., p. 184.

9. Ibid., p. 193.

10. Ibid., p. 207.



location was selected in 1899.<sup>10</sup> The first paving was provided for in 1900. Main Street, Grand Avenue and First Street were paved between Santa Fe Street and Harvey Avenue. Broadway and Robinson Avenue were paved between California Street and the right of way of the Choctaw Railroad.<sup>11</sup>

The chief events of 1902 were the installing of a system of trolley cars, and the selection of a site for Epworth University. Four miles of street car tracks were laid and operated the first year.<sup>12</sup> In this same year the city added two parks, Wheeler Park along the north side of the Canadian River,<sup>13</sup> and Delmar Garden, the leading public amusement place of the city for several years.<sup>14</sup> In 1903 the present site of the county court house and jail was purchased.<sup>15</sup>

In the Oklahoma City directory for 1903 and 1904 there was a summary of the principal establishments at that time. The three newspapers of 1889 had increased to 22 by 1903. In place of the four organized church societies there were 27 churches. Oklahoma City had Epworth University, State Military Institute, and seven school houses with 85 teachers instead of one private school of 1889. The 10 hotels of June 15, 1889 had more than doubled, totaling 22 but the restaurants had decreased from 37 to 30. Oklahoma City in 1903 had 66 wholesale

10. Ibid., p. 205.

11. Ibid., p. 217.

12. Ibid., p. 229.

13. Ibid., p. 237.

14. Ibid., p. 234.

15. Ibid., p. 247.

houses, one packing house, 18 lumber yards, two hospitals, three sanitariums, four machine shops, two foundries, three planing mills, two sash and door factories, one cracker factory, two candy factories, three flouring mills, five elevators, one cotton compress, one cotton oil mill, two gas plants, one electric light plant, four ice plants, two soap factories, two breweries, one broom factory, one proprietary medicine factory, one summer garden, one vitrified brick works, two pressed brick works, one public library and more than 20 other manufacturing establishments. Oklahoma City was a division point for two railroads and had eight banks.

In 1905 the Pioneer Telephone Company bought the lots where the present telephone building stands. On October 5, 1907, the first State Fair opened its gates. Ten thousand persons attended. On this same date the Chamber of Commerce announced that 866 buildings had been erected in the city within a year. Twenty-two additions to the city, having a total population of about 3,000 were brought within the city limits in 1908. At this time Oklahoma City had fifty-eight miles of paved streets. In 1909 Oklahoma City got its first Packing Plant.

By 1910 the number of business enterprises had become too numerous to list and some one was engaged in practically all the

16. Ibid., p. 290.

17. Ibid., p. 294.

18. Ibid., p. 307.

19. Ibid., p. 310.

20. Ibid., p. 313.

different occupations listed by the United States Census. The Second Packing Plant came to the city this year,<sup>21.</sup> and the capital of the state was acquired.<sup>22.</sup>

### CHAPTER III

#### OCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND RESIDENTIAL EFFICIENCY

Most cities tend to follow a definite pattern. In the center is the business district. Next to this is a zone that is becoming known as a ghetto of residences, because it is being invaded by business. Beyond the transitional area are the homes of the workers who need to be close to their work. The strictly residential area lies farther out and then there is the suburban area.

The modern city shows ecological influences. Economic factors largely determine the segregation of the population. This was found true in a study of Chicago<sup>23</sup> and in a study of Oklahoma City.<sup>24</sup> A study of Oklahoma City directories was made to see if there was any segregation of workers and business people. From the earliest available directory

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1. E. N. Burgess, *The Growth of the City*, in E. E. Park and E. W. Burgess, *The City*, pp. 30-31.
  2. Harvey S. Torrance, *The City Limit and the City*, p. 37.
  3. *Ibid.*
  4. E. S. Loyal and E. N. Loyal, *Chicago*.

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21. *Ibid.*, p. 329.

22. *Ibid.*, p. 338.

## CHAPTER III

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND  
RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

Most cities tend to follow a definite pattern. In the center is the business district. Next to this is a zone that is deteriorating as a place of residence, because it is being invaded by business. Beyond the transitional area are the homes of the workers who need to be close to their work. The strictly residential section lies farther out and then there is the suburban area.<sup>1.</sup>

The modern city shows ecological influences. Economic factors largely determine the segregation of the population.<sup>2.</sup> This was found true in a study of Chicago<sup>3.</sup> and of Middletown.<sup>4.</sup> A study of Oklahoma City directories was made to see if there was any segregation of workers and business people. Since the earliest available directory

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1. E. W. Burgess, The Growth of the City, in R. E. Park and E. W. Burgess, The City, pp. 50-51.
  2. Harvey W. Zorbaugh, The Gold Coast and the Slum, p. 232.
  3. Ibid.
  4. R. S. Lynd and H. M. Lynd, Middletown.

was of the year 1903, that year was selected for study first. Then the years 1910, 1920, and 1930 were chosen as periods far enough apart to show tendencies.

### 1. In 1903.

The directory for 1903 showed the population of the city to be 25,535.<sup>5</sup> The first 1,000 names in this directory contained all the people whose names begin with A and B, and part of those beginning with C. Among these people there were about two hundred ways of earning a living. It would be impossible to designate all these separate occupations on a map of the city. To use a different color on the map to show occupations as divided by the United States Census was also confusing as eight colors would be needed for the following divisions of occupations: agriculture, manufacturing and mechanical industries, transportation, trade, public service, professional service, domestic and personal service, and clerical occupations. This division also left out a large group that gave "labor" as their occupation and a smaller group that called themselves "capitalists". The classification was unsatisfactory in another way, as for example in manufacturing and mechanical industries, the owner of the factory and his humblest worker would be classed together while their social life and home environment would doubtless be very different. The president of the railroad and the drayman would each be earning his living by transportation, but the social distance between them would be very great.

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5. Oklahoma City Directory, 1903-4.

In "Middletown",<sup>6</sup> the people were divided into two groups: working class and business class. This is a significant division. People in their social activities in the main divide themselves according to these groupings. The working classes make their living largely by means of material tools. They work with their hands and work with things and make things. The business classes address their activities to persons and work with their tongues. They sell or promote things and ideas. The architects, surgeons and chemists are placed with the business class because all their other activities would place them with this class. Professional workers also are here placed with the business class.

On the accompanying map of Oklahoma City the residences of the workers are shown by green dots, the business class's homes by purple dots, and the Negro is located by red dots. An examination of this map will show that the majority of the Negroes are living along the railroad tracks. In fact, about four-fifths of the Negroes studied lived within a block of the tracks. The Negroes in the northwestern part of the city, shown on the map, were in the 400 block West Fourteenth, the 1200 block North Robinson, the 1100 block on Dale, and the 100 block West Sixth Street. They gave their occupations as "domestics" so they were evidently living in the servant's quarters of their white employers.

The large number of purple dots in the northern part of the

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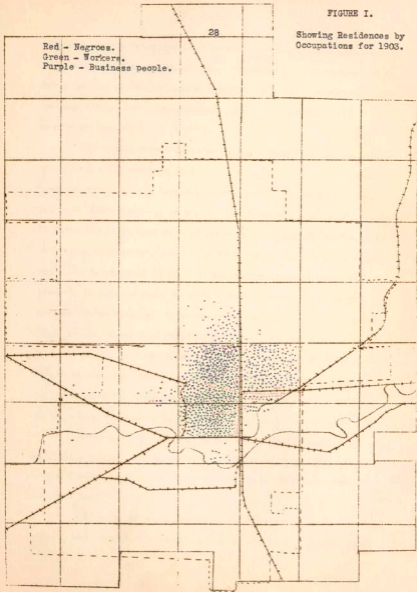
6. Lynd and Lynd, Middletown, p. 22.

FIGURE I.

Showing Residences by  
Occupations for 1903.

28

Red - Negroes.  
Green - Workers.  
Purple - Business people.



city showed a tendency for the business people to choose this location for their homes. The majority of green dots are shown south of Grand Avenue, where the working class lived. There were about twice as many workers as business people. Among the thousand studied were nearly 100 Negroes.

If Second Street is taken as a dividing line between the northern and the southern part of the city, it will be found that about two-thirds of the business people lived north of Second Street and more than two-thirds of the workers lived south of Second Street. If Fifth Street is used as a southern boundary and the part of the city lying between this and Sixteenth Street on the north, and from the Santa Fe railroad on the east to the 700 block on the west is studied, it will be found to contain exactly three times as many business people as workers. In considering the people living south of Grand Avenue, there were found to be three times as many workers as business people in this location. East of the Santa Fe from Fifth Street to the city limits there were about twice as many business people as workers. From Second Street on the north to Grand Avenue on the south, over twice as many workers lived as business people.

Oklahoma City, although a new area, showed some arrangement in stratification like the pattern of older communities and quite a marked tendency toward groupings of workers and business people in separate localities.

Of the 1,000 people studied, the occupation given most frequently was "clerk". Seventy-two people were earning their living



in this way. "Salesman" and "saleslady" ranked second with sixty-seven following this occupation. "Carpenters" with sixty-four ranked third. Included in this group were also "contractors" and "builders", one "carriage maker" and two "cabinet makers". Fifty-eight people gave as their occupation "labor", which probably means unskilled work and maybe no steady job. Thirteen people listed saloon as their occupation, and eight said they were bartenders. One was a "bottler for a Brewing Co.", and some were drivers for Brewing Companies. These at that time were legal occupations. One person gave "fisherman" as his occupation, though it is doubtful whether he could earn his living that way. There were three "horsehoers", five "harness makers", and two "livery stable owners" among the one thousand people.

## 2. In 1910.

In 1910, the occupations of the men and women in Oklahoma City were divided into 197 different classifications. A sample of the first one thousand names in the city directory of Oklahoma City for 1910<sup>8</sup> showed 135 different occupational classifications. Ninety-five people gave their occupations for the city directory as "labor", while the United States Census divided the laborers up into a number of different classifications according to the kind of labor in which the person was engaged. In other words the sample of the population represented nearly all the different occupations of the city except those

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7. Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Vol. IV., Table IV., p. 256 and p. 257.

8. Hoffine Directory Co., Compilers, Oklahoma City Directory, 1910.

in which only a very few people were employed.

About ten per cent of the population of Oklahoma City in 1910 was Negro. The first one thousand names from the directory showed exactly eight per cent Negroes, indicating that a fewer number of the Negroes' names began with A and B in proportion to the white people whose names commenced with these letters.

There were two and one-fourth times as many working as business class people in Oklahoma City in 1910. According to the city directory, there were 32 in the business class to 68 workers, in every one hundred employed, showing that the composition of the sample very nearly conformed to the pattern of the entire city. In "Middletown", there were  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  times as many in the working class as in the business class - 71 in each 100 as against 29<sup>9</sup>.

On the accompanying map of Oklahoma City for 1910, the homes of the Negroes are shown by a red dot, the workers' homes by a green dot, and the homes of the business class by a purple dot. As in 1903, the 1910 map shows Negroes living in servants' quarters among their white employers, and in homes of their own along the railroad tracks. In 1910, however, the Negroes showed a concentration of the east side of the city, north and south of the River. In fact, almost half, or to be exact, 35 out of 80 of the Negro homes were in the east side in 1910.

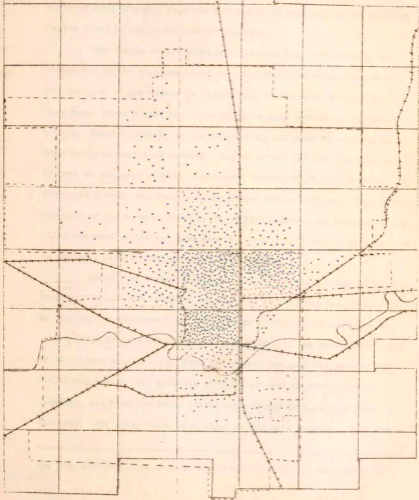
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9. Lynd and Lynd, op. cit.

FIGURE II.

Red - Negroes.  
Green - Workers.  
Purple - Business people.

Showing Residences by  
Occupations for 1910.



Of the 321 members of the business class studied, 264 lived north of Main Street. In other words, over 92 per cent of the business people lived in the north part of the city.

The center of the working class area was Third Street, while the center of the business class area was Eighth Street. This showed the tendency of the worker to live closer to his work than the business man. First Street had three times as many workers as business people. Twelfth Street, on the other hand, had over three times as many business people as workers. Second Street had six times as many workers as business people. Fourteenth Street, Eighteenth Street, Twentieth Street, and Twenty-second Street had no workers. Twenty-one per cent of the workers lived north of Eighth Street as contrasted with fifty per cent of the business people. Over four times as many workers as business-people lived south of First Street.

The United States Census for 1910<sup>10</sup> showed a total of 11,816 dwellings and 13,865 families, or about 85 per cent as many dwellings as families in Oklahoma City. Ward Seven showed the highest per cent of dwellings in proportion to families, with a little over 92 per cent as many homes as families. Ward One showed the smallest per cent of dwellings, having only a little over 71 per cent as many homes as families, and Ward Two had a little over 74 per cent as many homes as families. The other Wards were close to the city average. This showed

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10. The United States Census, op. cit., Vol. III, p. 483, Table V.

a tendency of the northern part of the city to be the location for apartment houses and duplexes. The extreme southern part of the city, which included the small town of Capitol Hill that was taken into the city in 1910, showed the largest per cent of single dwellings.

The occupation that occurred most frequently in the 1910 directory was "clerk". Over one hundred, or more than one tenth of the people studied, earned their living in this way. This did not include those classified as "salesmen" or "saleslady", or "bank clerks", "railroad clerks", "mail clerks", "telephone or telegraph clerks". Laborers composed the next largest group. Ninety-five or nearly one tenth of the total number studied were so classified. Fifty-six were carpenters and thirteen were contractors and builders or cabinet makers.

Two blacksmiths, two harness makers, and one "hoastler" were listed as late as 1910. Since Oklahoma City at that time had a ball team and belonged to a ball league, two of the sample studied were ball players. One actor's name began with A or B. Oklahoma City at that time had a stock company which gave a different play in its theatre each week. One contrast is found between the occupations given in 1903 and those given in 1910. There was no one who gave saloon, bartender, or working for a brewing company. Oklahoma had become a state since 1903 with prohibition as one of the conditions of statehood.

### 3. In 1920.

The first 1000 names were studied in the 1920 Oklahoma City

directory.<sup>11.</sup> One hundred four Negroes were among those investigated. Sixty-eight of these Negroes lived east of the Santa Fe tracks. Twenty-four lived south-west of Reno and Santa Fe. Twenty lived in the north western part of the city. These in the northwestern part were probably living in servant's quarters as Negroes do not own homes in that part of the city. The majority of the Negroes were living on the east side of Oklahoma City in 1920 as in 1910, but in 1920 they seem less scattered than in 1910, as shown by the accompanying map.

The concentration of the workers around the business district and in the southern part of Oklahoma City is shown to a very marked degree on the map. The tendency of the business people to live in the northern part of the city in 1920 is indicated plainly on the map. The green dots represent the workers, and the purple dots the business people. Nine times as many workers as business people lived south of Reno. Four times as many business people as workers lived north of Tenth Street. Almost twice as many workers as business people lived between Tenth Street and Reno Avenue.

#### 4. In 1930.

The first 1,000 names from the city directory for 1930 were studied. It was found that about 80 per cent of the business people lived north of Tenth Street. Forty per cent of the workers lived south of Reno. More than three-fourths of the workers, in contrast to only

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11. R. I. Polk and Co. Oklahoma City Directory for the year commencing March 1, 1920.

Showing Residence of

Negroes in 1920.

one-fifth of the business people lived south of Tenth Street.

The Oklahoma City directory for 1930<sup>12</sup> did not designate the whites and Negroes so the Negroes could not be located on the accompanying map. Their locations are very much the same as in 1920.

As in the earlier maps the workers are shown by green dots and the purple dots locate the business people. Many of the green dots east of Santa Fe and between Tenth and Reno probably represent Negroes. A number of the green dots north of Tenth Street may be Negroes as the addresses given in the directory often designated the rear of the lots and the occupations given were cook, porter, chauffeur, and laborer.

These studies indicate that Oklahoma City has continued to conform to the general pattern of cities with more workers living close to the business area. Also the tendency of people to live in isolated communities according to the type of work they engage in, is shown to hold true of Oklahoma City.

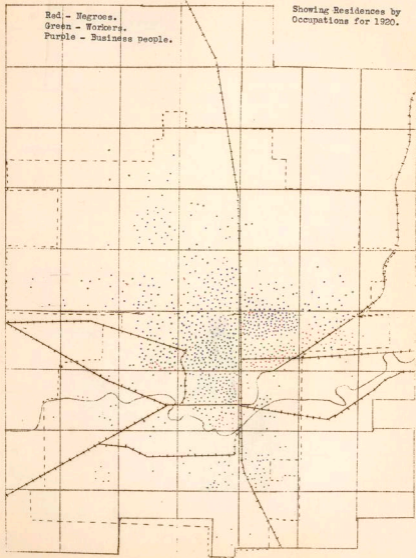
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12. Polk's Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Directory, 1930.

FIGURE III.

Red - Negroes.  
Green - Workers.  
Purple - Business people.

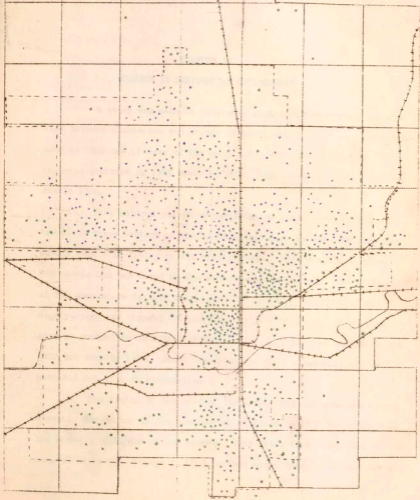
Showing Residences by  
Occupations for 1920.





Green - Workers.  
Purple - Business people.

Showing Residences by  
Occupations for 1930.



In other words more of those that already lived farther away from the business district in 1903 and in a more desirable location tended to stay where they were, while more of ~~the~~ that lived in the undesirable locations in 1903, moved before 1910.

#### CHAPTER IV.

#### CHANGES IN RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

A study was made to determine whether there was any correlation between occupation and change of environment. Also an effort was made to find out if more of the people who were living close to the business district in 1903 moved by 1910, than those that lived farther out in 1903.

Five hundred and forty people whose names began with one of the first three letters of the alphabet and were in the 1903 city directory were also living in the city in 1910. Eighty-eight of these 540 people had not moved in the seven years or at least were living at the same place in 1910 that they were in 1903. Thirteen of the eighty-eight had changed occupations, eight were widows, eight more gave no occupation in either 1903 or 1910. Four gave an occupation in 1903 but none in 1910. About twenty per cent of those that did not move did not give an occupation.

The center of the area of those that did not move was Fourth Street. The center of the residential district in 1903 for those that had moved by 1910 was Second Street. This shows that those that did not move lived on the average in 1903 farther north than those that moved.

In other words more of those that already lived farther away from the business district in 1903 and in a more desirable location tended to stay where they were, while more of those that lived in the undesirable locations in 1903, moved before 1910.

Ninety out of the 452 that had moved between 1903 and 1910 had also changed occupations, twelve were widows, and seventeen gave no occupation. While nine per cent of the people that had not moved were widows, only a little over two and one half per cent of the population that moved were widows. A little more than three and one half per cent among those that moved gave no occupation in contrast to nine per cent among those that had not moved.

The center of the population in 1910 of those that had moved was Sixth Street. This showed a decided tendency northward, since the center for the same people had changed from Second Street to Sixth Street in seven years.

A fourth of the people in 1903 that did not move lived north of Eighth Street in contrast to a fourth of the people that did move who lived north of Sixth Street. In 1910 a fourth of these same people lived north of Tenth Street. A quarter of those that did not move lived south of Washington, while a quarter of those who moved lived south of California in 1903 and south of Grand Avenue in 1910. This shows that a large number of those that did not move lived farther away from the center of town in southern Oklahoma City than those that did move.

While about 20 per cent of the mobile part of this sample had changed occupations, only about 15 per cent of the immobile part

had changed occupations. This seems to show that the immobile part of the population had a tendency to be more conservative than the mobile part. The immobile part contained more widows and unemployed.

There seemed to be about as many business people as working people among those that moved. Among those that did not move there were more business people than working people. This whole sample studied contained a greater proportion of business people to workers than the unselected samples studied in both 1903 and 1910, and the entire population as shown by the 1910 United States Census. This shows that a greater number of workers in proportion to business people left Oklahoma City between the years 1903 and 1910. To have kept the number of workers in proportion to business people found in the 1910 population, a greater per cent of workers in proportion to business people must have moved into Oklahoma City during these seven years. As a greater number of business people did not move in the city during these seven years it shows a tendency for business people to be less mobile than workers.

while the other wards in order of density of population were Ward Six, Ward Seven, Ward Two, Ward Five, Ward One, and Ward Four. By 1930 the wards had been reduced to four as it was impossible to compare population density by wards for 1910 and 1930.

In 1930, almost seven per cent of the population was Negro and 93 per cent was white. In 1903 the Negroes formed 1.1 per cent

1. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1903. Vol. I, p. 234.  
2. Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910. Vol. III, p. 244, Table V.

## CHAPTER V.

## COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

From 1890 to 1900, Oklahoma City had increased in population over 140 per cent, while from 1900 to 1910 it had increased almost 540 per cent. This was the period of the greatest per cent of increase in the population. From 1910 to 1920 Oklahoma City increased in population only 42 per cent, while from 1920 to 1930 it increased 103 per cent.<sup>1</sup> In 1910 Ward One had 11 per cent of the total population, Ward Two had 13 per cent, Ward Three had 18 per cent, Ward Four had 10 per cent, Ward Five had 13 per cent, and Ward Eight had eight per cent of the total population of Oklahoma City. Ward Three was the most densely settled and Ward Eight the most thinly settled, while the other wards in order of density of population were Ward Six, Ward Seven, Ward Two, Ward Five, Ward One, and Ward Four.<sup>2</sup> By 1930 the wards had been reduced to four so it was impossible to compare population density by wards for 1910 and 1930.

In 1890, almost seven per cent of the population was Negro and 93 per cent was white. In 1900 the Negroes formed 12.1 per cent

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1. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Vol. I, p. 878.  
 2. Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910. Vol. III, p. 483. Table V.

of the population and the whites 87.7 per cent. In 1910 only 10.2 per cent of the population was Negro, 89.6 per cent was white, 0.07 per cent was Indian, 0.1 per cent was Chinese, and 0.02 per cent was Japanese.<sup>3.</sup>

Study of the population by race in 1930 showed some changes since 1910. Negroes comprised only 7.9 per cent of the population, Indians had increased to 0.3 per cent and Chinese had decreased to 0.06 per cent of the total population. The number of Chinese had really increased since 1910. The Japanese per cent of the population had decreased to only 0.008 per cent. Only a little over half as many Japanese lived in Oklahoma City in 1930 as lived there in 1910. The per cent of the white population has increased to 91.2 per cent.<sup>4.</sup>

The percentage of native whites of native parentage had increased about five per cent in the ten year period from 1900 to 1910. Although the foreign-born whites in 1910 comprised only five per cent of the total population, twenty different countries were represented. By 1930 the foreign-born whites comprised only 1.7 per cent of the population, yet twenty-two different native countries were named and 210 foreign-born came from other unnamed countries.<sup>5.</sup> The native white of foreign or mixed parentage made up 10 per cent of the population of Oklahoma City in 1910, and six per cent of the population in 1930. Eighteen different countries in 1910 and twenty-two countries in 1930 were given

3. Ibid. p. 480. Table II.

4. Fifteenth Census of United States Population Bulletin. Second Series, p. 37. Table 17.

5. Ibid., p. 34. Table 15.

as birth places of those parents both of whom came from the same country. In 1930 275 parents came from other unnamed countries.<sup>6</sup> Five hundred fifty six were living in Oklahoma City in 1910 whose parents came from different countries.

Figure V. shows the relative number of the foreign-born white population of Oklahoma City for 1910. Most of the foreign population came from Germany while the fewest came from Wales. Those coming from Northern Europe were in the majority, comprising 50 per cent of the foreign population.

Figure VI. shows the relative number of the foreign-born white population of Oklahoma City for 1930. In 1930, those coming from northern Europe comprised over 50 per cent of the foreign population although there were really fewer people in Oklahoma City from northern Europe in 1930 than in 1910. In fact the total foreign population was less in 1930 than in 1910. Eighteen per cent of the foreign population of the city in 1930 came from southern Europe as compared with 15 per cent in 1910.

In Figure VII is shown the country of birth of the parents of the native white of foreign parentage in Oklahoma City in 1910. Germany contained the most as it did of the foreign born. England ranked third in both foreign-born and native white of foreign parentage. Wales and Holland had few foreign-born or native white of foreign parentage. Greece had the fewest native white of foreign parentage. The majority, in fact 82 per cent of the parents of the native white of foreign parentage came

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6. Ibid., p. 39. Table 19.

Table I.

Foreign-born White in Oklahoma in 1910. <sup>7.</sup>

Native Country.	Number	Per cent
Wales.	19	0.60
Holland.	22	0.69
Hungary.	27	0.85
Norway.	29	0.91
Switzerland.	33	1.04
France.	35	1.10
Italy.	40	1.26
Denmark.	42	1.32
Canada - French	52	1.64
Scotland.	97	3.06
Sweden.	110	3.47
Turkey.	124	3.91
Greece.	130	4.10
Ireland.	202	6.38
Russia.	225	7.10
Austria.	273	8.62
Canada - Other not French.	293	9.25
England.	360	11.37
Mexico.	379	11.93
Germany	674	21.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3166</b>	<b>100.00</b>

7. Thirteenth Census, op. cit.



Figure V.

## Native Countries of Foreign-born White - 1910.

- Northern Europe.
- Southern Europe.
- Western Europe.
- Canada.
- Mexico.

Wales.  
 Holland.  
 Hungary.  
 Norway.  
 Switzerland.  
 France.  
 Italy.  
 Denmark.  
 Canada-French.  
 Scotland.  
 Sweden.  
 Turkey.  
 Greece.  
 Ireland.  
 Russia.  
 Austria.  
 Canada.  
 England.  
 Mexico.  
 Germany.

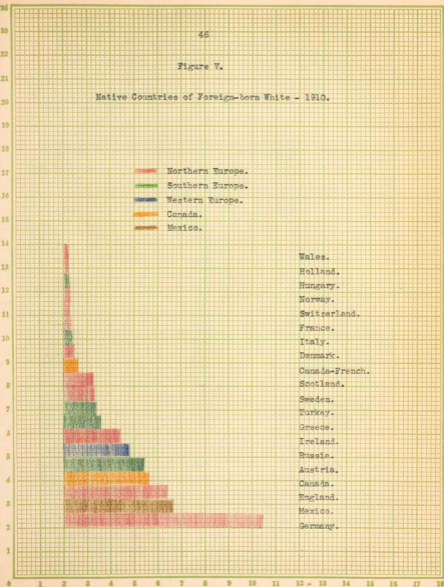


Table II.

Foreign-born White in Oklahoma City in 1930.<sup>8.</sup>

Native Country	Number	Per cent
Belgium	17	0.5
Wales.	17	0.5
Netherlands	19	0.6
Hungary	22	0.7
Switzerland	30	1.0
Norway	32	1.0
Italy	38	1.2
Northern Ireland	43	1.4
Austria.	51	1.7
Denmark	59	2.0
France	65	2.2
Poland	100	3.4
Scotland	100	3.4
Palestine and Syria	102	3.4
Irish Free State.	103	3.5
Sweden	138	4.7
Greece	157	5.3
Russia	233	7.9
Czechoslovakia.	256	8.7
England.	317	10.7
Canada.	361	12.3
Germany	673	22.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2933</b>	<b>100.</b>

8. Fifteenth Census, op. cit. p. 38. Table 18.

Figure VI.

## Native Countries of Foreign-born - 1930.

- Northern Europe.
- Southern Europe.
- Palestine and Syria.
- Western Europe.
- Canada.

Belgium.  
 Wales.  
 Netherlands.  
 Hungary.  
 Switzerland.  
 Norway.  
 Italy.  
 Northern Ireland.  
 Austria.  
 Denmark.  
 France.  
 Poland.  
 Scotland.  
 Palestine and Syria.  
 Irish Free State.  
 Sweden.  
 Greece.  
 Russia.  
 Czechoslovakia.  
 England.  
 Canada.  
 Germany.

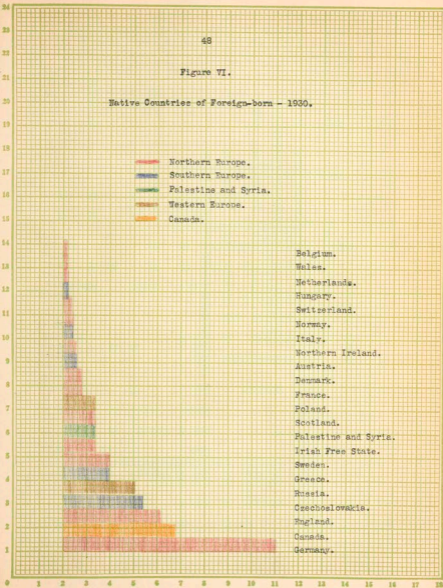


Table III.

Native Countries of Both Parents of Native White  
 9.  
 in Oklahoma City in 1910.

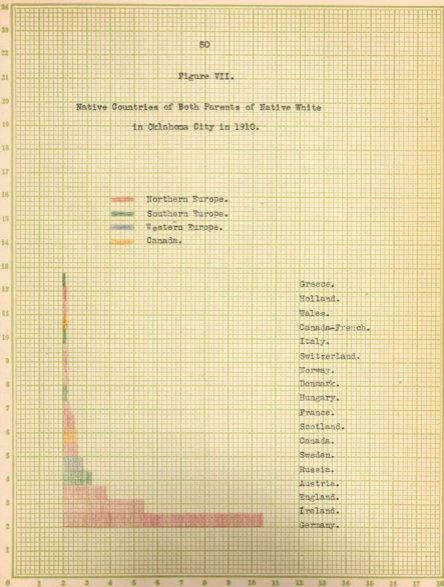
Native Country	Number	Per cent
Greece	5	0.16
Holland	13	0.43
Wales.	15	0.50
Canada - French	22	0.73
Italy	23	0.77
Switzerland	25	0.83
Norway	30	1.00
Denmark	33	1.10
Hungary	35	1.17
France	42	1.40
Scotland	76	2.54
Canada - not French	110	3.68
Sweden.	116	3.88
Russia	138	4.62
Austria	195	6.56
England	291	9.75
Ireland	532	17.83
Germany	1283	42.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2984</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Figure VII.

Native Countries of Both Parents of Native White  
in Oklahoma City in 1910.

█ Northern Europe.  
█ Southern Europe.  
█ Western Europe.  
█ Canada.

Greece.  
 Holland.  
 Wales.  
 Canada-French.  
 Italy.  
 Switzerland.  
 Norway.  
 Denmark.  
 Hungary.  
 France.  
 Scotland.  
 Canada.  
 Sweden.  
 Russia.  
 Austria.  
 England.  
 Ireland.  
 Germany.



from Northern Europe. These foreign parents of the native whites probably came over earlier than the foreign born found in Oklahoma City, and when the great majority of the immigrants to United States were from Northern Europe.

Figure VIII shows the country of birth of the parents of the native white of foreign or mixed parentage. Germany was the native country of the most parents in 1930 as it was in 1910. Ireland and England held second and third places both years if both Northern Ireland and Irish Free State are taken together in 1930 as they were in 1910. Seventy-four per cent of the foreign parents came from northern Europe in 1930 in contrast to 82 per cent in 1910.

Figure IX shows the per cent of native white of native parentage, native white of foreign or mixed parentage, foreign-born white, Negro, Indian, Chinese, and Japanese in each Ward in 1910. Ward Eight contained the highest per cent of native white of native parentage and Ward Five the smallest per cent. The native whites of native parentage comprise the majority in each ward. The Negroes had the highest per cent in Ward Five and the lowest per cent in Ward Eight. The highest per cent of foreign-born white were in Ward Four and the lowest per cent in Ward Five. The Indian, Chinese, and Japanese formed a very small per cent of the population in any ward, but the highest per cent lived in Ward Four and the smallest per cent in Ward One.

Figure X shows the per cent of native white of native parent-

11. Thirteenth Census, op. cit. p. 483. Table V.

10. Fifteenth Census, op. cit.

Table IV.

Native Countries of Parents of Native White  
in Oklahoma in 1930. <sup>10.</sup>

Native Country	Number	Per cent
Belgium	25	0.21
Hungary	60	0.52
Netherlands.	82	0.71
Wales.	121	1.05
Palestine and Syria.	125	1.09
Greece.	133	1.16
Italy.	137	1.19
Norway	171	1.49
Denmark	173	1.51
Poland.	178	1.55
Austria.	178	1.55
Switzerland.	215	1.88
Northern Ireland.	336	2.93
France.	399	3.48
Russia.	414	3.62
Sweden	446	3.89
Scotland.	448	3.91
Czechoslovakia.	559	4.89
Canada.	1068	9.33
Irish Free State.	1149	10.05
England.	1392	11.29
Germany.	3627	31.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11436</b>	<b>100.00</b>

10. Fifteenth Census, op. cit.

Figure VIII.  
 Native Countries of Parents of Native White  
 in Oklahoma City in 1930.

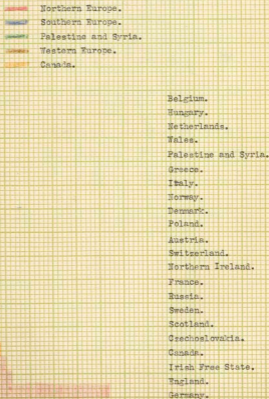




Table V.

Race and Nativity by Wards in Oklahoma City in 1910. 12.

Subject	Ward One		Ward Two		Ward Three	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent
Native White- Native parentage.	5,323	80.14	6,482	78.02	9,519	74.92
Native white- foreign or mixed parentage.	731	11.00	1,055	12.68	1,468	11.55
Foreign-born white.	276	4.18	467	5.85	831	6.42
Negro	293	4.41	283	3.40	879	6.91
Indian, Chinese, and Japanese	19	0.02	13	0.15	18	0.14

12. Ibid.

Table V. continued.

Ward Four		Ward Five		Ward Six		Ward Seven		Ward Eight	
No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
4,198	66.25	3,985	50.73	7,636	81.23	6,781	82.74	3,956	83.60
532	9.18	546	6.93	800	8.51	809	9.87	408	8.62
545	8.60	227	2.88	294	3.12	281	3.42	293	5.99
944	14.89	3,111	39.40	651	6.92	307	3.74	78	1.64
67	1.07	6	0.07	19	.20	17	.20	7	.14

Figure IX.

Race and Nativity by Wards in Oklahoma City in 1910.

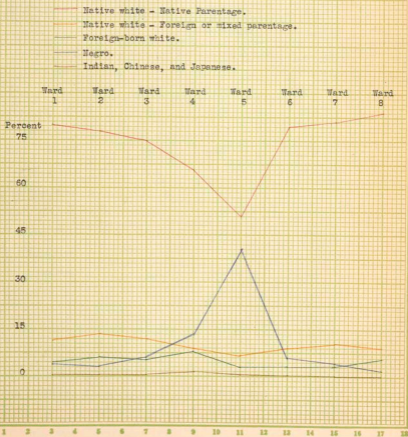


Table VI.

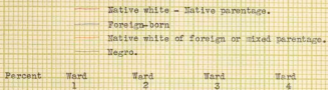
Race and Nativity by Wards in Oklahoma City in 1930.<sup>13.</sup>

	Native White Native parentage.	Foreign-born	Native White Foreign or mixed parentage.	Negro
Ward One				
No.	39,267	927	3,830	1,092
Per cent.	87.0	2.0	8.4	2.4
Ward Two				
No.	30,591	536	2,238	11,172
Per cent.	68.6	1.2	5.0	25.0
Ward Three				
No.	39,525	1,058	3,359	1,393
Per cent	87.1	2.3	7.4	3.0
Ward Four				
No.	44,796	622	2,284	1,004
Per cent	91.9	1.2	4.6	2.0

13. Fifteenth Census, op. cit. p. 69. Table 23.

Figure X.

Race and Nativity by Wards in Oklahoma City in 1930.



age, native white of foreign or mixed parentage, foreign-born white, and Negro in each ward for 1930. Ward Four contained the highest per cent of native white of native parentage and Ward Two the smallest. Ward Four is that part of Oklahoma City that was a small town called Capitol Hill. Its population is the most nearly homogenous of any ward in the city. Ward Two contained the largest per cent of Negroes. The foreign population and those of foreign parentage form a very small part of each ward.

In 1910, about 56 per cent of the total population of Oklahoma City was male and 44 per cent was female. Of this number 50 per cent was white males, six per cent Negro males, about 40 per cent white females and four per cent Negro females.<sup>12.</sup> In 1930, there were almost as many women as men in Oklahoma City. Fifty and five tenths per cent of the population was male and 49.5 per cent female. Of this number 46.7 per cent was white males, 3.8 per cent Negro males, 45.4 per cent white females and 4.1 per cent Negro females.<sup>13.</sup>

Of the total male population 15 years of age and over in 1910, 43.7 per cent was single, 51 per cent married, about four per cent widowed, and about one per cent divorced. Forty-four per cent of the native white males of native parentage was single, about 51 per cent married, about four per cent widowed, and about one per cent divorced. About 43 per cent of the native white males of foreign or mixed parentage were single, 52 per cent married, about four per cent widowed and one per cent

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12. Thirteenth Census. op. cit., p. 480. Table 2.

13. Fifteenth Census Population Bulletin, Second Series, p. 21. Table 12.

divorced. About 46 per cent of the foreign-born white males were single, 49 per cent married, four per cent widowed and not quite one per cent divorced. Thirty-eight per cent of the Negroes was single, about 54 per cent married, about seven per cent widowed, and not quite one per cent divorced. Thirty-six per cent of the Indian males was single, about 55 per cent married, nine per cent widowed, and none divorced.<sup>14.</sup>

For the white population the proportions followed very closely the pattern of the total, with the foreign-born showing a larger per cent of single men and a smaller per cent of divorced. The Negroes showed the smallest per cent of single men and the largest per cent of both widowed and married while the per cent of divorced was about equal to the foreign-born.

Of the females fifteen years of age and over of Oklahoma City in 1910, 25 per cent was single, 65 per cent married, nine per cent widowed, and one per cent divorced. A greater proportion of the women in the population was married. As there were more men than women a greater proportion of the men was single. A larger per cent of the women than of the men was widowed. The divorced per cent was equal. Of the native white of native parentage, about 26 per cent was single, 64 per cent married, nine per cent widowed and one per cent divorced. Of the foreign-born white women about 14 per cent was single, 72 per cent married, 13 per cent widowed, and one per cent divorced. About 28 per cent of the native white of foreign parentage was single, 64 per cent married, seven per cent widowed, and one per cent divorced.

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14. Thirteenth Census, op. cit. p. 464. Table 13.

Nineteen per cent of the Negro women was single, 65 per cent married, 14 per cent widowed, and two per cent divorced. Twenty-nine per cent of the Indian women was single, 63 per cent married, eight per cent widowed, and none divorced.<sup>15.</sup>

The native white women of native parentage and the native white women of foreign parentage conformed very closely to the pattern of the total population with the native white of foreign parentage showing a smaller per cent of widowed and a larger per cent single. A very large per cent of the foreign-born white was married and widowed in comparison with the other women and a smaller per cent was single. The white women, native, foreign-born, and native white of foreign parentage, all had about the same per cent divorced. The Negro women had the largest per cent divorced and the Indian smallest. The Negro women had a larger per cent widowed and divorced and a smaller per cent single while the per cent married was the same as that for all women.

The foreign-born women in comparison to the foreign-born men had a smaller per cent single and a larger per cent married and widowed. This is also true of the native white of foreign parentage. The Negro women conformed to this same pattern when compared to the Negro men. The Indian made up a very small part of the population so the data may not be representative of Indians in general. Over twice as many Negro women as Negro men were divorced. This seems to indicate that the divorced Negro man remarried more quickly than the di-

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15. Ibid.



forced Negro women.

Half of the male population of Oklahoma City in 1910 was 28 years of age or younger. Half of the women were 25 years of age or younger. Half of the native white men were 28 years of age or younger, the same as the total male population, while half of the native white women were 24 years of age or younger, which was a year younger than the total female population. The foreign-born men's mid-point of age was 36 years, while the mid-point for the foreign-born women was 37 years. The average age of the Negro men was 27 years, and the Negro women 24 years. The ages of the foreign-born were high as there would be fewer foreign-born children than native born children.<sup>16.</sup>

The ages for the native white men and native white women very closely conformed to the ages of the total male and female population as they formed the great majority of the population of the city. Figure XI. shows the age distribution of the population of Oklahoma City in 1910 by race and sex. It will be seen that sex had less bearing on the age distribution than nationality and race. The foreign-born, both men and women had the smallest per cent below age ten and the largest per cent beyond 60 years. A smaller per cent of both Negro males and native white males was below ten years of age than Negro women and native white women. Beyond age 60, the Negro men and Negro women showed a smaller per cent than native white women and native white men. The greatest per cent of the native white and Negroes was between 20 and 30 years of age. The largest per cent of foreign-born, both men

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16. Ibid. p. 464 Table 13.

Table VII.

Age Distribution in Oklahoma City in 1910 for Men. <sup>17.</sup>

Age	Total		Native white		Foreign-born		Negro	
	No.	Percent.	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
0-9	5293	15	4730	14	19	1	537	15
10-19	4914	14	4338	15	85	4	491	14
20-29	9476	26.5	7742	27	644	28	1070	30
30-39	7488	21	6101	21	538	26	766	22
40-49	4069	11	3299	11	388	17	364	10
50-59	2451	7	1938	7	280	12	160	5
60-69	1971	5.5	1555	5	266	12	136	4
Total.	35667		29743		2270		3524	

17. Ibid.

Table VIII.

18.

Age Distribution in Oklahoma City in 1910 for Women.

Age	Total		Native White.		Foreign-born.		Negro.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
0-9	5402	19	4799	20	21	2	576	19
10-19	4958	18	4368	18	18	6	540	18
20-29	7309	26	6181	25	222	24	900	30
30-39	5144	18	4378	18	218	23	543	18
40-49	2642	9	2262	9	153	16	235	8
50-59	1530	5	1306	5	110	12	112	4
60-69	1427	5	1169	5	157	17	99	3
Total	28412	100	24453	100	936	100	3005	100



and women, was between 30 and 40 years of age.

Eighty-five per cent of the men ten years old and over and 21 per cent of the women of Oklahoma City in 1910 were gainfully employed. One and seven tenths per cent of the men and 0.1 per cent of the women were engaged in agriculture, forestry, or animal husbandry. Two tenths of one per cent of the men and 0.1 per cent of the women were extractors of minerals. About 37 per cent of the men and 13 per cent of the women employed were listed as engaged in manufacturing and mechanical industries. Fourteen per cent of the men were engaged in transportation as compared to three per cent of the women. The great majority of the women were telephone operators. About 25 per cent of the men earned a living through trade as compared to 10 per cent of the women. One and seven tenths per cent of the men and less than one tenth of one per cent of the women were engaged in public service. Six per cent of the men and 13.9 per cent of the women were employed at professional services. Eight and four tenths per cent of the men and 46 per cent of the women were engaged in domestic and personal service. Clerical occupations employed six per cent of the men and 13.9 per cent of the women.

The largest percentage of the men was engaged in manufacturing and mechanical industries. The largest percentage of the women was employed in domestic and personal service. The smallest per cent of the men was engaged in extraction of minerals and the fewest women were employed in public service, although about as few women were engaged in

agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry and extraction of minerals. A small per cent of the men was engaged in agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry and public service.

Eighty-one per cent of the men and 28 per cent of the women ten years old and over in Oklahoma City in 1930 were gainful workers. One per cent of the men and 0.02 per cent of the women were engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Six per cent of the men and one woman were extractors of minerals. Twenty-six per cent of the men and one per cent of the women were employed in manufacturing and mechanical industries. Seven per cent of the men and seven tenths per cent of the women were engaged in transportation and communication. Twenty per cent of the men and three per cent of the women earned their living through trade. One per cent of the men and 0.06 per cent of the women were engaged in public service. Professional service employed five per cent of the men and three per cent of the women. Six per cent of the men and ten per cent of the women were engaged in domestic and personal service.<sup>20</sup>

The largest per cent of the men were engaged in manufacturing and mechanical industries in 1930 and 1910. The largest per cent of the women were employed in domestic and personal service in both years. The smallest per cent of the men in 1930 were engaged in agriculture instead of extraction of minerals as in 1910. The oil industry in Oklahoma City

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20. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Occupation Statistics, Oklahoma, Table 4.

in 1930 accounted for the increase in the number extracting minerals in 1930 over 1910. The smallest per cent of women were extracting minerals in 1930 instead of in public service as in 1910. A smaller per cent of the men and a larger per cent of the women were gainfully employed in 1930 than in 1910.

In 1910, Norfolk, Virginia and Oklahoma City were about the same size. Norfolk had a population of 67,452 and Oklahoma City had 64,205.<sup>21</sup> Norfolk increased 44.7 per cent from 1900 to 1910 and 33.7 per cent from 1890 to 1900. By way of contrast, Oklahoma City increased 539.7 per cent and 141.8 per cent respectively in the same years. The Negroes in Norfolk comprised 37.1 per cent of the population in 1910 and 43.4 per cent in 1900, while the Negro population of Oklahoma City was 10.2 and 12.1 per cent, respectively, for the two decades. Norfolk and Oklahoma City did not differ much in per cent of foreign-born white. Norfolk had 5.3 per cent foreign-born in 1910 and 3.4 per cent foreign-born in 1900. Oklahoma City had 5.0 per cent foreign-born in 1910 and 5.6 per cent in 1900. The native white of foreign or mixed parentage in Norfolk was 6.4 per cent in 1910 and 6.1 per cent in 1900. In Oklahoma City the native white of foreign or mixed parentage was ten per cent in 1910 and 12.4 per cent in 1900. Fifty one and one tenth per cent of the population of Norfolk in 1910 was native white of native parentage, and 46.9 per cent in 1900. In Oklahoma City 74.6 per cent of the population in 1910 and 69.7 per cent in 1900 was native white of white parentage.<sup>22</sup>

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21. Thirteenth Census, Vol. III, p. 931. Table 2.

22. Ibid. p. 935, Table 15.

The greatest difference in the composition of the population in the two communities was the greater per cent of Negroes in Norfolk and the greater per cent of native white of foreign or mixed parentage in Oklahoma City. In Norfolk there were a few more women than men. The number of men to 100 women in 1910 was 95 and in 1900 was 94.9, while in Oklahoma City the number of men exceeded the women, there being 125.1 males to every 100 females in 1900 and 125.6 males to every 100 females in 1910. This is what would be expected in an older settled community<sup>23.</sup> and a newer, more actively growing city.

The average age for the men of Norfolk was 27 years and for the women 26 years, while for Oklahoma City the average was 28 years and 25 years respectively, showing the average for the men of Oklahoma City was one year older and for the women was one year younger than in Norfolk. The male population of Norfolk showed a greater per cent up to 20 years of age, and Oklahoma City showed a greater per cent from 20 to 40 years of age. Norfolk showed a greater per cent from 50 to 60 years and both cities were about the same for over 60 years, showing Oklahoma City had fewer children and more adults at the prime of their working period. The per cent of the women of different age periods was very similar for both cities, in no case varying more than one per cent except from 20 to 30 years where Oklahoma City had two per cent more<sup>24.</sup> than Norfolk for that age.

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23. Ibid. p. 931, Table 2, and p. 461, Table 2.

24. Ibid. p. 934, Table 13, and p. 464, Table 12.



In Norfolk 53 per cent of the men were married and 52.3 per cent of the women 15 years of age and over, as compared to 51 per cent of the men and 64.6 per cent of the women in Oklahoma City. A smaller per cent of the men and a larger per cent of the women in Oklahoma City were married as compared to Norfolk. In a rapidly growing, young community a larger per cent are usually single men, who have come seeking adventure or fortune. In a community where there are more women than men a smaller per cent of the men will likely be married than 25. in a community where the women are in the majority.

## CHAPTER VI.

## CHANGING PATTERNS IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE

## 1. Ecological Description of Oklahoma

## City in 1930.

The retail business district of Oklahoma City extends approximately from Reno on the south to Fourth Street on the north and from the Santa Fe tracks on the east to Dewey on the west. The largest wholesale district is south of Main and east of the Santa Fe tracks.

The transition area of the city lies between Washington on the south and Main Street on the north and from the Santa Fe tracks on the east to Western Avenue on the west. This district has been abandoned by the better class of the poor when the encroachment of business made it undesirable for residence. This is the crime and delinquency district.

Farther south lying near the river is a dilapidated district where both Negroes and poor whites live. This district extends from Southwest Twelfth on the north to the river on the south and from the Santa Fe tracks on the east to Western Avenue on the west.

A small group of Mexicans live on South Ninth Street near Robinson.

The City Community Camp for the destitute is west of South Pennsylvania Avenue between the North Canadian River and the Rock Island tracks.

South of the North Canadian River is Capitol Hill. This was a small town with its business district, churches, schools, and theatre before it was taken into Oklahoma City in 1910. It has kept its separate community life and resembles a small town more than part of a larger city.

The negroes in Oklahoma City are largely segregated in two districts. The smaller district is between Peach Street on the west and Clegern Street on the east and Main on the north and Reno on the south. This is almost entirely a residential district. The larger Negro district is from Reno on the south to Tenth Street on the north. The eastern boundary is Walnut from Reno to Fourth Street and Durland from Fourth to Tenth Streets. Eastern is the western boundary. South of the Negro district lies the oil fields.

North of the retail business district is the residential section of the city. Near the business district are boarding houses, lighthousekeeping rooms, rented rooms, and small rented apartments. As the city extends northward the plainer homes give place to the homes of the moderately rich. Some very beautiful, expensive homes are found north of Fourteenth Street. There are two districts of exclusively expensive homes within the city limits. One is a small area called Harndale. This lies along Classen Boulevard from Fourteenth to Sixteenth Streets. The other is Lincoln Terrace. It extends from Lincoln Boulevard

to Lottie Street and between Fourteenth and Twenty-second Streets. The most beautiful residential district is Nichols Hills which is between Western and May Avenues and extends about two miles north of Sixtieth Street.

Oklahoma City has been growing north and west. In an early day California was the street of the finest homes. The large shade trees in that part of Oklahoma City show where those early best homes were. When Emerson school was built many people complained because the school board had located this school in the country. It is on Sixth Street and quite near now to the retail business district.

## 2. Changing Social Attitudes.

The mores and folkways, which have become customs because they have been thought the best ways of doing certain things, change very slowly. This is particularly true in regard to non-material institutions, such as religion, education, and personal relationships. New inventions have produced the greatest changes in the life of a community,

The Oklahoma Gazette of May 22, 1889 gave a police court record. Two offenses were lot jumping with fine of five dollars each. On May 24, 1889 the police court records had four warrants issued for lot jumping. May 25, 1889 there was a jury trial and a warrant out for lot jumping. May 27, 1889, on a jury trial, a person accused of lot jumping was acquitted. On June 7, 1889, there was a case of the city against the owner of a lot to eject cattle from the lot occupied by him. On June 17, 1890 a case of lot jumping was dismissed. On August 1, 1899 the city court declared as a nuisance the handling of green hides and drying them in the

sun. On August 4, 1889, there were eleven land contests set for hearing in October.

An examination of police court records of today would show no cases of lot jumping as all the city lots have titles and owners. No one keeps cattle or dries hides on his lots today. Many police court records would show fines for over parking and speeding and failure to stop at lights. If a person living in 1889 could see these records they would have no meaning to him.

On June 11, 1889, there was an article called "Deformed Waists" in which some of the ill effects of corset wearing and tight lacing were innumeraed. In an article in a daily paper, January 1933, the merchants were reported as saying they could not sell women shoes that were too tight. Women demanded clothes that fit comfortably as a part, perhaps, of their new freedom.

At the time of the adoption of the Oklahoma State Constitution a prohibition article was approved by the voters.<sup>1</sup> On December 30, 1907 the New State Brewing Association amidst much hilarity, emptied into the sewers 75,000 gallons of beer, valued at twenty-seven thousand dollars.<sup>2</sup> Prohibition has been tried for a while first in the state and then in the whole nation. There is now considerable effort being exerted to legalize beer and also to revoke the prohibition amendment.

The first social life in Oklahoma City centered in the churches.

1. W. F. Kerr, and Ina Gainer, The Story of Oklahoma City, Vol. I, p.293.
2. Ibid, p. 295.

During the first summer the popular thing to do in the evening was to gather in an ice cream parlor, whose owner was the proud possessor of the first piano brought to Oklahoma City and whose daughter entertained their callers by playing unusually well. <sup>3.</sup> The churches today are not the center of the social life of the city. As a city grows larger the provisions for amusement increase and no one thing could be called the center of its social life. The moving picture shows probably attract a larger crowd than any other one form of amusement. The piano's place as a popular entertainer has been largely taken by the radio.

The first big social affair was a banquet and ball given on September 17, 1889 in honor of a group of Congressmen. <sup>4.</sup> Many prominent women appeared in gowns of cashmere and swiss and even saten. There were a few plush gowns, some silk ones and a few diamonds. Every woman dug deep into her packed-away finery and brought forth her best. Parties were events that required a lot of thought and planning. As most houses were small, the stoves and beds and large pieces of furniture had to be moved out into the yard when a party was to be given. This took place regardless of the weather. One woman had a dozen Haviland China plates, another a dozen sterling silver knives and forks. The only after dinner cups were owned by another woman. Yellow portieres and a screen to match owned by one woman was borrowed for every affair of importance. The dishes and silver went the rounds of the parties so that <sup>5.</sup> their owners had hard work locating them.

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3. Ibid. Vol. 2, p. 523.

4. Ibid. p. 524.

5. Ibid. p. 527.

Oklahoma City has changed from the friendly pioneer village where all were neighbors to a larger city where friends often live too far apart to make borrowing convenient. A party instead of being a great event is a daily occurrence and chief employment of the wealthy women.

In 1890 the first big afternoon tea was given. The shades were drawn and the room was lighted with kerosene lamps. This was an innovation.<sup>6.</sup> Today the kerosene lamp would be the innovation rather than the drawn shades.

On January 1, 1891, Captain and Mrs. Stiles gave a New Years Reception. They had the largest home in the town, an eight roomed, "box" shaped house in the Military Reservation. This home contained the only bath room in town.<sup>7.</sup> Bath rooms today are found in almost every house in Oklahoma City.

Early in 1895, the first card club was organized. At first they played bid euchre. In 1897 it was changed into a whist club. In 1899 it became an afternoon card club and they played Duplicate Whist.<sup>8.</sup> Since that day Auction Bridge has had its reign and has given place to Contract Bridge. The one club of that early day has multiplied many times.

Not until 1900 did Oklahoma City take an interest in golf.<sup>9.</sup> The golf course was laid out east of the city. The golf courses have

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6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.

increased to ten. A large number of business and professional men play the game and quite a large number of women play also. In 1900 golf was not considered a woman's game.

In 1907 there was a club organized that studied the Chautauque course.<sup>10.</sup> Today the study clubs have increased from that small beginning as much, perhaps, as the city has grown with almost as many different things studied as there are clubs.

The first school was in a rear room on First Street between Broadway and Robinson Streets. A tuition of one dollar or two dollars<sup>11.</sup> per month was charged according to the child's grade.

The first public school was in 1891. The office of the first city superintendent was in a room where machinery was kept. He taught during school hours. The black boards were black cloth on the walls<sup>12.</sup> and could not be used sometimes on account of the wind. The teachers<sup>13.</sup> were paid in warrants called "scrip". These they sold to the tax payers at a discount, and felt lucky if they could find a buyer.

There are about 60 public school buildings now. The superintendent's one room has been replaced by an entire administration building. He not only does not teach but has a corp of assistants to help him administer.

10. Ibid. p. 538.  
 11. Ibid. p. 559.  
 12. Ibid. p. 562.  
 13. Ibid. p. 561.  
 14. Ibid. p. 562.



The ways of getting a living have changed most since Oklahoma City was first settled. Inventions have increased the kinds of occupations and made common necessities today of what were the luxuries of that early day, or even unheard of then. The motion pictures and automobiles have made changes in ways in which leisure time is spent. In education the city has progressed from the one room ungraded school to a graded system which includes the three units of elementary school, junior high school, and high school. In many of the larger elementary schools, the one teacher to each room has changed to the platoon school where the child has different teachers for his different subjects during the day. Many community activities are organized now. The individual and church charities have been largely taken over by the organized charities financed by a community fund.

The architecture of the city is changing. The apartment house and duplex is being built more frequently, with provisions for the increasing number of no children homes or one child homes. The majority of homes in Oklahoma City are still the one family home. Another change in the home is the increasing number of married women who are gainfully employed outside of their homes. The number of divorces is also increasing. Formal religious activities have made the least change.

Within the last twenty years Oklahoma City has tried some city-planning. There are zoning laws governing the location of business and residences.

In Oklahoma City at first every man lived where he could walk to his work in a few minutes. As the street cars came, this increased

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