HISTORY OF WASHITA COUNTY

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Vester Montgomery

Thesis submitted in part fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of Oklahoma.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author of this thesis wishes to offer his sincere appreciation to his major professor, Doctor A. K. Christian, for sympathetic guidance in the collection of material and preparation of the manuscript. Thanks and appreciation are due also to Doctor E. E. Dale for valuable suggestions and assistance. The writer is likewise deeply indebted to scores of citizens of Washita County, Oklahoma, without whose kind assistance the study would have been impossible.

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION.

The history of Washita County and all the rest of Oklahoma, except the panhandles, is peculiar and really unique due to its selection as a home for the Indians and the unusual manner in which much of it was opened to white settlement. Yet, up until the time of its selection as such its history is bound up with the history that is common to all the land within the Louisiana Purchase. The early title to this land was exchanged between European nations without their taking the trouble to determine its boundaries very definitely.

The Spanish and the French were establishing their claims to the country at about the same time. To discuss fully the claims of each nation to the land is to go into a more comprehensive survey than our purpose here warrants. Let it suffice here to give a brief outline of those claims.

Spain based her claim to the land upon the explorations of those adventruous conquerors who subdued the Aztecs in Mexico and later pushed their way Northward. Of these expeditions the one which most directly touches

the history of Washita County is that of Francisco Coronado. In 1540 Coronado led an expedition northward from Mexico in search of certain wealthy cities said to be somewhere in that region. (1) Leaving the main body of his army encamped in Texas, he, with thirty men, rode northward across the present state of Oklahoma, 1541. The line of march is in doubt but some authorities say it probably passed through the present sites of Altus and Woodward. (2) If such is the case it may have passed through what is now Washita County. Upon this expedition of Coronado and others of his countrymen Spain laid claim to the country.

(1) Bourne - Spain in America. P. 173.

(2) George P. Winship - The Journey of Coronado - Preface P. XXXii.

The Spanish claim to the region was contested by the French who came from the opposite direction. While the Spaniards were riding boldly to the conquest of Eldorados in the Southwest the French were going industriously about the less thrilling business of catching and drying fish in the Northeast, the banks of Newfoundland being a fertile field for that trade. Soon this business was supplemented by that of trading with the Indians. In 1608 Samuel Champlain established Quebec. The expedition of Joliet down the Mississippi in 1673 and that of LaSalle

a few years later which went to the mouth of the river gave them a claim to the entire Mississippi basin which they called Louisiana. The founding of a colony at Biloxi Bay and the establishment of New Orleans (1718) strengthened their claims. From these settlements at the mouth of the Mississippi many traders came into the rivers of Oklahoma. The names of our mountains and rivers bear testimony to their presence. (1)

(1) Roberts Essential Facts of Oklahoma History P. 11

By the Treaty of Paris which ended the French and Indian War in 1763 France gave up all of her claim to empire in America. That part east of the Mississippi River, except New Orleans, went to England, and to Spain went New Orleans and all of the French claims west of the Mississippi. (2) In 1800 Spain ceded Louisiana to

(2) Treaty of Paris - Article VII.

Napoleon by the secret treaty of San Ildefonso. (3)

(3) Treaty of San Ildefonso - Article III. McDonald Documentory Source Book of American History P. 279.

Napoleon, being ill prepared to defend so large a region so far from home, sold the entire region to the United States in 1803. The price was fifteen million dollars.(4)

(4) Treaty with France for Cession of Louisiana. Article 1-4. April 30, 1803.

the equivalent of $15.50 per square mile. Such was the

Such was the estimated value at that time of that vast region of which Washita County is a part.

The first inhabitants of that part of Oklahoma that was to become Washita County were, of course, Indians. But to say that the land was occupied by them would not be correct, exactly, since it was visited only by occasional hunting parties. In 1869, however, the government designated a large area (4,300,000 acres) in this part of Oklahoma as a reservation for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.(1)

(1) Treaty of Oct. 10, 1867. Kappler-Indian Laws and Treaties

The Cheyennes, a roving, warlike tribe who numbered more than two thousand, were first seen in Minnesota. For many years previous to their removal to Oklahoma, however, they had no regular home. (2)

(2) Grinnell - The Cheyenne Indians - Volume 1. Chapter I.

The Arapahoes, kinsmen of the Cheyennes, were also wanderers on the plains until this home was assigned to them. Their tribe numbered about eleven hundred. (3) The

(3) Report of the Secretary of Interior for 1891.

Indians were managed from the agency located at Darlington. They had no permanent location on this part of the reservation until 1883 when John Seger brought a band of them from Darlington and located at Colony.(4)

(4) John Seger - My Life Among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

Long before the coming of the settlers great herds of cattle were being driven across Washita County. About the close of the Civil War the ranchmen of Texas found their ranges well stocked with fat cattle, with no market at hand. In order to reach a market they had to make the long drive to the shipping points in Kansas. In the spring of 1866 a few herds went north and from then on the number rapidly increased. By 1870 the drive was in full sway and from then until 1895 an almost incredible number of cattle were driven across Oklahoma on the way to the northern market. It is estimated that an average of three hundred fifty thousand "went up the trail" annually for a period of twenty-eight years. (1)

(1) George W. Saunders, in Trail Drivers of Texas.

There were four main trails across Oklahoma one of which crossed Red River at Doan's Store and went north through Washita County. (2)

(2) Clara M. Love - Southwestern Historical Quarterly, April 1916.

In addition to these transient herds many thousands of cattle were grazed upon the Cheyenne-Arapahoe reservations on a more permanent basis. Some of these were the herds belonging to the "beef contractors" - men who had contracts with the government to furnish beef to the Indians. Other herds wandered up from Greer County or down from the Cherokee outlet. Prominent among these grazers were the Dickey Brothers and B. H. Campbell.

The agent did not make a strong effort to have these cattle kept off the reservation since some of them paid grazing fees to the Indians and others furnished beef to make up for the deficiency in the rations. (1)

Dale-Ranching on the Cheyenn-Arapahoe

Early in the year 1883 the tenure of the cattlemen was put upon a more sound basis by the granting of more than three million acres of the reservation in leases to seven men for a period of ten years. Edward Fenlon received 564,480 acres in the northwest corner. Lying immediatly South of that was the lease of William E. Malaley who also had 564,480 acres. In the southwest corner H. B. Denman had 575,000 acres. R. D. Hunter had 500,000 acres in the northeast corner and immediately south of this was 456,960 acres held by A. G. Evans. In the southeast corner, the region which now includes Washita County, L. M. Briggs had 538,720 acres and J. D. Morrison had 138,240 acres. (1)

(1) Map-Kansas State Journal

Although these leases were given for ten years events that transpired brought them to a close long before the expiration of that time. The Department of the Interior did not recognize the arrangement as a binding lease. In a letter to Fenlon the Secretary had laid down a policy to govern the situation. The Department of the

Interior informed the cattlemen that while they could not recognize the lease as binding they saw no reason why the cattlemen might not make a satisfactory arrangement with the Indians and occupy the land with their cattle. It was made plain, however, that if for any reason the arrangement should become unsatisfactory to the Department ~~of the~~ of the Interior the cattlemen should be asked to vacate at once. (1)

E. E. Dale-Ranching on Cheyenne Arapahoe Reservation. P. 12.

The tenure of the cattlemen under such an arrangement could not be long. Certain influential men, as the Dickey Brothers and B. H. Campbell, felt that they had been slighted when they failed to secure a part of the land with the lessees. These men refused to remove their herds in favor of the lessees and threatened to make trouble to anyone who might attempt to force them out. (2)

(2) Ivid P.P 14-15.

They also stirred up trouble among the Indians by playing for the favor of certain factions of them against others. The Indians became restless and unruly and threatened such serious trouble that the agent, D. B. Dyer who had succeeded agent Miles, asked for troops to maintain order. After many such requests and a great deal of uneasiness on the part of the agency and the military post at Fort Reno, General Sheridan was sent to the agency to take charge-(July 1885). About the same time, July 23, 1885,

President Cleveland issued a proclamation ordering that all the cattle be removed within forty days. (2) With the removal of these cattle ranching on a large scale in this region came to an end. After the opening of the reservation to settlement cattleraising was taken up again but on a smaller scale. Among those who engaged in the industry in Washita County were the Williams Brothers, John Herrington; Quarles and Teal, Gaither and Bingham, the Banks Brothers and the Magnon Brothers. (1)

(1) E.E. Dale-Ranching on Cheyenne Arapahoe Reservation. P. 12

(1) Statement of Robert Keen and J. M. Dale.

Perhaps it is well to mention at this place a circumstance which was closely connected with the cattle industry which has been discussed and which might have caused the boundaries of Washita County to be somewhat different from what they are. In 1883 there arose a dispute about the boundary line between the Cheyenne-Arapahoe reservation and the lands of the Kiowas on the south. There was also a difference of opinion about the Washita boundary on the east. The Kiowas often raided the cattle being grazed on the Cheyenne-Arapahoe reservation claiming they were on Kiowa lands. Inspector Townsend investigated the situation and made a report which was not satisfactory to the Kiowas. Agent Hunt at Anadarko and Agent Miles at Darlington joined

in a request to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the line be surveyed. Commissioner Price replied that the land had been surveyed in 1874, the notes were still on file, and he saw no reason for a resurvey. At any rate, he said, there were no funds available for the project. To this Agent Miles replied that he was prepared to meet the expense from funds contributed by the Cheyenne-Arapahoe Livestock Association who were eager to have the Kiowas stop raiding their herds. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs refused to allow the survey by such an arrangement and the line remained in dispute. The removal of the cattle in 1885 took away the necessity for a definite line. (1)

(1) Dale-Ranch Cattle Industry on the Great Plains Chapter VI.

CHAPTER II

OPENING OF THE COUNTY AND FOUNDING OF THE COUNTY SEAT

The Cheyenne-Arapahoe reservation was the third division of Oklahoma to be opened to white settlement. Being preceded by Old Oklahoma in 1889 and the Iowa. Sac and Fox and Pottawatomie, Shawnee lands in 1891. (1)

Thoburn - History of Oklahoma - Vol. II P. 718

The same method was employed here as in the first two openings. A proclamation by the president and a race for claims. The event was less widely advertised than the previous ones in the hope of avoiding some of the confusion that had attended the others. The reservation had been surveyed and divided into six counties designated by letters from "C" to "H" inclusive, following the practice begun in the second opening, when County "A" (Lincoln) and County "B" (Pottawatomie) were founded. (1)

(1) ibid.

On April 12, 1892 President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation setting the opening date at high noon April 19, 1892. (2)

(2) Richardson - Messages and Papers of the Presidents P. 275

County "H" which was later to become Washita County extended twenty-eight miles north and forty miles west from the southeast corner of the reservation. It was therefore bounded by two lines from which settlers might enter.

On the south was the Kiowa reservation and on the east that of the Wichitas and Caddoes.

Along these lines the prospective setters began to camp days before the date at which they were allowed to enter. On the Washita River near the present site of Mountain View was a camp of perhaps two thousand people waiting for the race. (1) This was considered a particu-

(1) Statement of Harve Dean

larly adventageous place due to the fact that the county seat of "H" County had been laid out at Tacola, only a few miles from the southern line. Smaller numbers were camped at various places on both the south and the east sides. Small details of United States soldiers were on duty at various places to preserve order. (2) Due to the

(2) ibid - Statement of H. B. Young

fact that there was only one crossing on Oak C reek on the south the contestants were allowed to cross over the day before the race and camp on the north side of the creek (3)

(3) Statement of H. B. Young

A similar condition was found on the east side where they were allowed to cross over and camp on the west bank of Cobb Creek (1)

(1) Statement of Zack King

From the point on Oak Creek due south of the County seat was the greatest race. Fortunately there are a number of men still living in the county who were there

and can tell us the story. H. D. Young who had an active part in the settlement of the county gives his experience as follows:

"The writer made the run on a cow pony from a point near Oak Creek due south of the county site, which was called Jacola, until the post office was established which was named "Cloud Chief" in honor of a noted chief of the Cheyenne Indians. There was a large number of people who made the run from near this point. The writer having a pocket compass ran due north passing over some good looking country but the greater part seemed rough with sedge grass stools prominent. Canyons were passed, some of which in order to cross we had to make quite a detour. About 1 P. M. we reached the south line ~~of line~~ of Jacola made visible by being patrolled by soldiers and a line of people growing rapidly in density. On observation we noticed that the greater number of people seemed to be nearly opposite us on the south side. Thinking that this place had the advantage of being the nearest approach to the square we rode around the west end and joined the large crowd. Orders were given to stake our horses not closer than a certain distance and make the run on foot.

"The writer prepared for the race, having pulled off his boots to make the race in his sock feet. Having a small stake in hand, at 1:30 when the signal was given

I started with the wall of humanity, running at my best speed, until I came to what I thought to be my best chance and stuck my stake. On turning around there was a man just north of me who had put down his stake. Both stakes appeared to be on the same lot so we began to discuss as to who first put down his stake. While the discussion was going on a man showed us that we were both on a street. I then moved my stake south and he north of the street and each had a lot thus settling the dispute. His lot, however, fronted the square to the east and mine was a business lot on the south side of the street running east and west on the south side of the square. So it developed that I ran a little too far. However, I got busy and had my lot plowed around, put in some posts and started a well. As many others did I camped on my lot that night but, being short on bedding and exposed to a northwest wind, I had no voyages into dreamland.

"After learning my lot and block numbers, I went early next morning to the filing tent. Judge Lambertson, the appointed probate judge, received the filings. Having patiently waited for some good purchaser to come and reward me liberally for my efforts, I became restless and began to try to look up some. I found some few who were looking around for a snap, to whom I showed my lot, but

I could get no action. The lot business being somewhat disappointing, I began to be on the lookout for some of my Vernon Company headed by T. H. Jones who made the run for a location about the center of the county. Fortunately about noon I found a man from whom I obtained information sufficient to find our camp. Buying some sandwiches I started out a northwesterly course over reddish ridges reaching and crossing Cavalrey Creek a few yards above the site of the present concrete bridge on the Black Post road from Cordell to Cloud Chief. This was evidently an old buffalo or cow crossing.

"When I reached the camp I found Tom Wilson who had swung a large turkey to a limb and was dressing it. This also appealed to the admiration of the writer. Soon night came and several of the camp crew came in. Among our campers were Tom Wilson, Sid Davidson, Harry Morris, A. J. Johnson, T. H. Jones." (1)

(1) H. B. Young in Cordell Beacon

On the second day of its existence Tacola had a population of perhaps three thousand or four thousand people (1)

(1) Statement of H. D. Young & J. M. Dale

there were perhaps fifty stores of various kinds, all of them in tents (2) within a few days after the opening the new city

(2) ibid.

had a newspaper. On April 28, was issued the second number of the Tacola Chief, a Republican paper edited by Frank Meyer (3)

(3) Cordell Beacon

Along with the other business establishments came a number of saloons and gambling houses.

The government of the county was provided for before the opening in that Governor A. J. Seay had appointed the officers. H. A. Lambertson was appointed probate judge; J. C. Hoffins, county attorney; George M. Bernett county clerk; W. E. Thrall, sheriff; A. S. Prather, register of deeds; A. R. Gilchrist, county surveyor; Neal Rogland, county treasurer; H. H. Little, T. J. Mitts, and William Jarvis, county commissioners. (1) All of

(1) Proceedings of the County Commissioner April 1892

these officers were Republicans.

At other points in the county the race was less exciting than at Tacola. At the place where Rocky now stands the run was made by a little group of perhaps fifty men. (2) A peculiar circumstance in this vicinity was

(2) Statement of J. B. Stwarte

was that a misunderstanding arose as to the correct location of the line and the race was made from a point three miles within the reservation. At about the north line of the present town of Rocky ran the drift fence of the U U Ranch and this was taken as the line. A few, however, who knew of the mistake dropped back and staked claims on the south side which they were allowed to retain. (3)

(3) ibid.

At no place west of this point was there anything that

properly could be called a race. A few stragglers came into the west side of the county during the first days, but for the most part the land was taken very gradually. (1)

(1) Statement of Mr. Winningham

In fact as late as 1897 there was not a little land in this part of the county that had never been taken and a great deal that had been filed upon and left. (2) In 1900 entry

(2) ibid.

was made upon 360 acres of land in the county leaving 1580 acres unclaimed. (3)

(3) Annual Report of Gov. Wm. M. Jenkins Sept. 15, 1901

On the east side, due to the difficulty of crossing Cobb Creek there were only two places from which runs were made. One of these was near the southeast corner and the other at Colony. (4) About three hundred people entered at

(4) Statement of Zack King

the first point, many of them going as far as Tacola before selecting a claim. (5) Among those making the race at this

(5) Statement of Harve Dean

point was Harve Dean who has been prominent in political affairs of the county almost continuously since that time.

The race at Colony was the most exciting except the one at Oak Creek. Here the start was made from a point a little way within the reservation. This was due to the fact that the crossing on Cobb Creek was narrow and difficult.

So to avoid accidents they were allowed to take a place on the west side. (1) The number running from here was

(1) Statement of Zack King

estimated at two thousand to three thousand. John Seger was in charge of the starting and was assisted by Washef, an Indian, who fired the gun for the start. The run was made from the place where the Colony bank now stands (2)

(2) ibid.

The fact that the east side of the county was then at Colony may seem like an anomaly to those who now know its location to be about two and a half miles east of there. This is accounted for by the fact that when the Wichita reservation was opened to settlement the secretary of the Department of the Interior added a strip along the west of that reservation to Washita County (June 24, 1901) This was approximately two and a half miles across the entire border. (3) Throughout the entire north side of

(3) House Documents - Vol. 26 - 57th Congress - 1st session - 1901-02 - Serial 4293

the county the people came in gradually and selected their claims at leisure.

The greater per cent of those who came in 1892 were from Texas. Others were from Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and other northern states. The Germans and Russians who came a few years after the opening and settled in the northern side of the county were almost exclusively from Kansas

whence they had migrated from Germany or Russia. 18

One man who made the race, when asked his opinion as to where most of the people came from, said he thought they came from everywhere, some of them apparently dropping out of the sky.

In spite of precautions to keep everybody out until the proper time, a good deal of the best land was "Soon-ered" This was especially true of the land in Washita and Cavalry Creek bottoms. (1)

(1) Statement of H. D. Young and J. M. Dale

CHAPTER III

TOWNS OF WASHITA COUNTY

There are ten towns in Washita County. All of them owing their existence to the demands of the agricultural communities in which they are located.

Cordell, the largest and the county-seat is located in the exact center of the country. The idea of a town at this place had its inception in the minds of that little group of men who were encamped with H. D. Young on the second day of the county's existence. T. H. Jones was the chief promoter. (1)

(1) H. D. Young.

Mr. Young filed on the S. E. ¼ Sec. 34, T. 10, R. 17 W. (This is the farm now owned by Ben Young, one mile east of Cordell on the north side of the road.) T. H. Jones had the place surveyed for a townsite and offered some special inducements to Mr. Young to build a store at once. Mr. Young had the lumber hauled from Vernon, Texas, and a small store was erected. It was stocked with general merchandise from Vernon and some groceries and drugs from Wichita, Kansas, which were shipped to Minco, I.T. the most availabe railroad point. Mr. Young and his family lived in the back end of the store. (2)

(2) H. D. Young

This place was generally known as Jonestown after

the promoter.

There was no postoffice at Jonestown and this was a great handicap in view of the fact that the promoters had a definite idea of bidding for the county seat. A. J. Johnson who had been on the townsite from the beginning had an intimate friend in the Postoffice Department at Washington. This man's name was Cordell. Through his influence a post office was established here and given the name Cordell. H. D. Young was named postmaster. This was about the beginning of the year 1893. (1)

(1) Statement of H. D. Young

During the next two years several business establishments made their appearance in Cordell. George Beaton established the "Cordell Democrat" which was published in Miss Imogene Barton's residence nearby. Tom Smith moved a hotel from Navajo, Greer County, and Felix Jones put in a blacksmith shop. (2)

(2) H. D. Young

The water supply at Cordell was not adequate. Realizing that this would be a permanent handicap, the promoters conceived the idea of moving to a location one mile west where the water promised to be more abundant. A. J. Johnson and J. C. Harrel platted upon their claims which joined the townsite on the west and southwest and had the land surveyed for a townsite.

Inducements were offered to the citizens of Cordell to move and most of them did so. (1895) This was the beginning of New Cordell. (1) The city of New Cordell was incor-

(1) Statement of H. D. Young

porated December 22, 1900. (2) at that time the pop-

(2) Records of the County Election Board

ulation was not more than three hundred fifty. (3)

Mrs. C. J. Murrell in Who's Who in Washita County

In the same year the county seat was secured. (4)

(4) Records County Election Board

and in 1901 the Frisco Railroad built through on the line from Enid to Vernon, Texas. (5) These improvements

(5) H. D. Young

gave the town a new impetus.

With the coming of the county seat came also the Cordell Beacon from Cloud Chief where it had operated as the Cloud Chief Beacon. Since that time the Beacon has had a continuous publication in Cordell under the following editors: (6) 1900 J. K. Little; 1900-1903

(6) Cordell Beacon, July 28, 1927

J. A. White; 1903-1909 Swan C. Burnett; 1909-1912 R. A. Billups; 1912-1914 J. J. McCurley; 1914-1918 Roy McDonald; 1918-1922 A. W. Pete Anderson; 1922-1925 M. B. Carley; 1925 - Harrington Winberly.

Other papers that have been published in Cordell are: "The Cordell Messenger" The News Democrat" "Herald Sentinel" Vorwartz", and "Washita County Democrat."

The growth of Cordell may be indicated by pointing out some of the improvements from time to time. In 1903 was installed a water system at a cost of $25,000. The water came from deep wells. A chamber of commerce was organized this year, also. By 1908 the population had grown to 2000, and a petition was presented to Governor Haskell for an election to determine whether an election to determine whether Cordell should become a city of the first class. The election was held and the proposition adopted May 19, of that year. J. A. Julian was the first elected mayor. Those holding the office since that time are Robert Steele, R. L. Harvey, H. D. Young, J. W. Corlett, and Carl Copeland. (1)

Mrs C. J. Murrell in "Who's Who in Washita County

In August 1909 the court house was destroyed by fire and some of the city and county records were lost. The building was replaced in 1910 by a brick and stone structure at a cost of $75,000. An electric light plant was installed in 1910 also. In 1915 was completed a splendid water system, that furnishes water

enough to supply a city of 20,000. A Carnegie Library was built in 1911 and now has 4500 volumes. The present city hall was erected in 1922. In 1925 gas was piped from Sgyser and fifty-one blocks of pavement were laid. (1)

(1) Mrs. C. J. Murrell in "Who's Who in Washita County

Next to Cordell the largest town in the county is Sentinel. The beginnings of Sentinel date back to the Summer of 1898 when R. B. Gore started out from Greer County in a wagon prospecting for a location for a store and the beginning of a town. It happened that he stopped on the claim of L. M. Williams to inquire about the prospects for such a venture in this region. Finding nobody at home in the Williams dugout he camped and waited. Presently A. C. Williams, the brother of the owner of the claim, appeared on the scene. An agreement was made and with the encouragement of the Williams brothers Mr. Greer established a dugout store which he later moved into a half-dugout structure. Supplies for the store came from El Reno or Sugden. Mr. Gore immediately applied for a postoffice under the name of Old Hickory or Sentinel and the office was granted with the name Sentinel. Thus the future metropolis of the western side of the county had its beginnings. (1)

(1) Statement of A. C. Williams.

The site was one mile east of the present location of the town. There were enough settlers in this part of the county to make the prospects hopeful and other businesses appeared. Dr. Tidball came in and began the practice of medicine from his half-dugout. Another business establishment soon made its appearance in the form of a combined blacksmith shop and barber shop. Jim Daniels did blacksmith work and C. J. Sutterfield administered to the tonsorial needs of the settlers in a willow chair in the rear of the shop. (1)

(1) Statement of A. C. Williams

In 1901 the town was moved to its present location where Allen Whitner gave eighty acres for the townsite Mr. Whitner had established a store in a rock house on this site some time before. (2) The Kansas City, Mexico,

(2) Statement of Wesley Reeves

and Orient Railroad had surveyed a line through this site and some grading was done in 1901. (3) The name

(3) Ibid.

selected by the Orient for the town was Barton, but as there was already a post office in the state by that name the office at this place was always Sentinel, though there was some confusion between the names. The railroad was not built until 1908, The first train

coming on December 27 of that year. (1)

Statement of Butch King.

Among the business houses located at Sentinel in 1901 or soon after were Dr. Tidball's Drug Store; George Bill's grocery store which stood where the Wright Hotel is now; and a bank run by L. E. Piper where the B and W Service Station now stands. A gin was built in 1901. The post-office was located on about the present site of the O. K. Mercantile Store. The lumber for the post-office was hauled from Mountain View. The Round Front Hotel with a livery barn in connection was on the corner east of the present location of the Sentinel Leader. The first newspaper to be edited by W. W. Harnbeck, under the editorship of John Field, it became the Sentinel Leader. (2)

(2) Statement of Butch King.

From its modest beginnings Sentinel has grown to a prosperous town. It now has [redacted] largest bank in the county, four gins, four elevators, three dry goods stores, six grocery stores, five filling stations, a theatre, a hotel, a newspaper, a splendid school system and eighteen blocks of pavement.

The oldest town in Washita county is Colony. Its location and its unique character among the towns of the county are due to the efforts of John Seger. In 1863

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while the Cheyenne-Arapohoe Agency was located at Darlington, it was thought desirable to move one group of the Indians away from the Agency to a place where they might have a greater inducement to work for themselves. Mr. Seger had been employed at the agency in various capacities for some time as carpenter, as superintendent of the Indian School and in other positions. In whatever position he had served he had shown marked ability in dealing successfully with the Indians and was known to them as a friend. For a few years immediately preceding 1883, however, he had been out of the Indian Service and was operating a horse ranch for himself. (1) When

(1) Statement of John Seger.

it was decided to take some of the Indians away and locate them in a new home he was chosen as the man best fitted for the task. After investigating various places in the reservation as a possible site for the venture he chose the place on Cobb Creek. The government set aside four sections of land for the project and in the summer of 1883 Mr. Seger led a band of one hundred twenty Cheyennes and Arapohoes to the new home. (2)

(2) John Seger - My Life Among the Cheyennes and Arapohoe

He began at once to plan and work toward the object of making the Indians contented in their new surroundings. The colony Indian school and the town of Colony now

stand as a monument to the wisdom with which he wrought.

The first building erected on the spot was a house with picket walls and a dirt roof which stood just between where the two dormitories now stand. (1) This

(1) Zack King

building was used as a commissary. A little later a store was placed near the picket house and managed by Jah. an Indian. (2) No readymade building material was

(2) Statement of John Seger

to be had nearer than Caldwell, Kansas. It was discovered, however, that there was a grade of clay on Cobb Creek nearby that was suitable for the making of bricks. Consequently a brick yard was installed at which were made the bricks for the first two main buildings of the school. These were finished by 1890. (3)

(3) My Life Among the Cheyennes & Aropohoes - J. Seger

William De Lestinier, by permission of the government, operated a small store here before the opening.

Three or four days after the opening Zack King and others laid out a townsite a mile west of the school. De Lestenier moved his store there and the town started. Soon a fair hotel was erected and George Cole put in a store and secured a postoffice which was called Seger. (4)

(4) Zack King

The townsite soon reverted to the government and Mr. Cole moved his store and the postoffice four miles west. It was not long, however, until another office was secured for the original place, this time under the name of Colony. William De Lestinier was postmaster for awhile and later the post-office was held by Neatha Seger who moved it over to the Indian school managed by his father. (1) From this nucleus the town of Colony has grown.

(1) Statement of Sack King

In 1897 the Colony Indian Mission was established at the school under the direction of the W omen's Board of Domestic Missions of the Reformed Church in America. Mrs. Walter C. Roe, with a number of co-workers has done religious work among the Indians continuously since that time. (2)

(2) Statement of Mrs. Walter C. Roe

At the school and mission there is a bead-work establishment operated by Mr. Kincaid. Here the Indians are employed in making various articles of bead-work which are sold at the lodge as well as through-out the country by mail order. This work had its beginning soon after the mission was established here. A Miss Burnham who operated a hotel in Boston exhibited there letters and articles concerning the Indians of the west. Many people who in this way learned about the Indians

and the work that was being done among them contributed small sums of money for the promotion of the work. In time eight hundred dollars was accumulated in this way. Through John Seger the money was turned over to the mission and a bead hall was established with it. (1)

(1) Statement of John Seger

The interprise is now managed separate from both the school and the mission.

As was true of other towns in the western and northwestern parts of the county Dill did not receive any settlers at the time of the race. The town had its beginning, however, before the year was over. Frank McDonald filed on the quarter section that is now the south half of the townsite and Lucretia L. Reed filed on the north half. The first two buildings on the site were erected in the fall of 1892 one a store operated by W. R. Dillon and the other a store run by Joseph Meador. Mr. Meador immediately secured a post office under the name of Dill, the place being named for Judge Dill of Hobart. (2)

Statement of D. D. Walker and W. R. Dillon

Among the business establishments that came in the early years were Ed Cox general merchandise; Mr. York, furniture; Newt McElmurry, hardware; J. B. Krewl, drugs;

Ben and Harry Coberly, groceries; Hines and Garett, general merchandise and Thurmond Beas, bank. (1)

(1) Statement of D. D. Walker and W. R. Dillon

In 1907 the Orient Railroad was built through the town. The ambitious tendency of the community is reflected in the fact that the name chosen for the station is "Dill City" Since the coming of the railroad the town has grown rapidly and become one of the most thrifty centers of trade in the county.

Some of those who settled in the community at an early date are Reverend Thomas J. Cook, James Ellis and D.D. Walker all of whom still live there (1928) (2)

(2) Statement of D. D. Walker and W. R. Dillon

As has been said elsewhere there were about fifty people entered the county at the site of Rocky in the race for claims. At that time Mr. Harrel secured the claim which is now the west side of the town and the claim on the east side was taken by Miss Addie Rhoades (3)

&(3)Pamphlet issued by Rocky Public Schools 1907

Settlement was slow much land in the vicinity being vacant as late as 1898 (4) It was in this year that the

(4) Statement of J. W. Jordon

first store was built here. W. F. Schultz put up a little rock store at a place which is now on the west

side of the railroad in the north end of town. John Reif was a partner in the store. A post office was secured with Mr. Schultz as postmaster. The name "Rocky" was suggested by the circumstance of the rock store. (1)

(1)Statement of J. W. Jordon

Two years later John Reif and J. W. Hatcher put up a store about two miles west of the rock store and gave it the ambitious name of Elk City. A gin was built at this place also but before long they both succumbed to the growth of the other town. In 1901 the Frisco Railroad came and with it a number of businesses. Among these were H. C. Denison, hardware and lumber and a general store conducted by D. Shean. F. C. Finerty established a bank where money could be borrowed for eighteen per cent if good security were provided (2)

(2) Statement of W. C. Dyas

A school house known as Orange Blossom had been built in 1897 on the claim of Mrs. P. J. Underwood a mile south of town. This served as a church and community center for many years. (3)

Pamphlet issued by Rocky Public Schools 1907

The town of Foss was first named Maharg. In 1897 John Graham put up a little store at the present site of the town and applied for a post office by his own name. The privilege of the post office was granted but as there was already a place by the name Graham the official at Wash-

ington inverted it making it Maharg. In 1900 the store came in possession of J. W. Lawson and the post office was moved to Wilson's Store four miles southeast. Mr. Radford, who had been operating a store on Oak Creek got permission to establish a post office at Lawson's store with himself as postmaster. The name give the place was Foss after a United States Senator. (1)

(1) Statement of J. W. Lawson

In June 1901 the Rock Island built through the place and it began to grow. Charles Hartronft became postmaster and put in a hardware store. A bank was established by W. D. Horr. Other businesses were added rapidly so that by 1905 the town had a population of about eight hundred (2)

(2) ibid

The townsite at Canute was laid off in 1901 on the claim belonging to Louis Schidlemantle. For some years previous to this there had been stores scattered throughout this corner of the county. Robert Keen was operating a store west of there on the county line near Elk City. When Mr. Keen applied for a postoffice to be located at his store he did not suggest a name so the post office department gave it the name Canute whis is an Indian word for Keen. (3)

(3) Statement of Robert Keen

Newt Walk had a hardware store and blacksmith shop on the Louis Schidlemantle claim and Charles Warner had a store about three quarters of amile west of it. Mr. Keen

moved his store to Elk City and the post office came to Warners Store still by the name of Canute. (1)

(1) Statement of Robert Keen

With the laying out of the townsite and the coming of the Rock Island in 1901 business sprang up. Keen came from Elk City and put in a store and A. L. West put in a lumber yard. Mr. Schidlemantle had a saloon there and Mr. Bird a Boheman, moved his blacksmith shop from his claim nearby. (2)

(2) Statement of Robert Keen

There is nothing remarkable to distinguish the growth of Canute as it is similar to that of the typical small town in an agricultural community.

The building of the Frisco Railway through a fertile agricultural district was the occasion for the beginning of a number of towns along the line. One of these was Bessie. In 1902 the railway company laid out a townsite one and a half miles north of the present location and called it Stout due to the fact that Ben Stout operated a store and post office there. Immediately other businesses came. H. A. Weins started a general store. R. L. Harvey put in a store which he soon sold to Frompke and Hine. There was a furniture store operated by M. Athorn. The Frisco Hotel was operated by Ben Wohlgemute (3)

(3) H. A. Weins

In 1903 the railway company offered the business men inducements to name to the present location. Lots in the new townsite were give in exchange for the ones held at Stout. So the entire town moved to its present location. The new town was named Bessie for the daughter of a railway official. (1)

(1) Statement of H. A. Weins

Most of the people in the town and community are Germans.

Cora is a local trading point consisting of a dozen business houses of various kinds that supply the needs of a farming community. Due to the fact that it is near several points on railroads and has no railroad itself its influence is restricted to a small area. Most of the people are Germans who came from Kansas several years after the opening and settled together. They are among the most prosperous farmers in the county and have a strong community interest which centers around the Menmonite Brethren Church and the Cow Bible School both of which have adequate buildings in the town.

The first store here was operated by C. B. Flaming in 1903. Previous to this time a store and post office known as Korn was operated about five miles north. When Mr. Flaming erected his store the post office was moved

to it. Just why the name was spelled with a K is not apparent for the man who operated the store and post office was not a German. The name was spelled with a K, however, until the World War, when popular demand caused it to be changed (1)

Statement of G. B. Flaming

The facts concerning the beginnings of Cloud Chief have already been stated. The unnatural conditions under which it was founded caused its population to go from zero to five thousand in one day, but the exodus was almost as remarkable. Six months after the race the population was only a few hundred. (2) There were

(2) Statement of Harve Dean

several thriving businesses there, however, and the work contingent to the governing of the county. Stibson and Lamberson, C. E. Summers and others operated general stores. Bennett and Hurst had a hardware store as did also C. M. Berry. Grupel was the leading grocer. Thomas A. Edwards, now Federal Judge for the western district in Oklahoma lived in a dugout and practiced law. (3)

(3) Mrs. C. J. Murrell "Who's Who in Washita County"

The removal of the county seat to Cordell in 1900 was the death knell to the hopes of Cloud Chief. Although it voted to incorporate on December 22, 1900, it was not

able to maintain a place among the larger towns of the county. (1) It however maintained its solidarity

(1) Records County Election Board

of community interest and has by no means lost its identity, though its importance as a trading center has gone as a result of automobiles and improved roads.

CHAPTER IV

COUNTY OFFICERS AND POLITICAL EVENTS

I For a list of county officers since 1892 see Appendix I P.

II ± Political Events:

Prospective settlers of Washita County reflected the organizing propersities of the American People before they crossed the line into the new land. In the large camp on the Washita a few days prior to the opening was formed the South Line Protective Association. The purpose of the organization was to protect the interests of the members against unscrupulous claim jumpers and others whose purpose was to defraud. (1)

(1) Statement of F. B. Stewart

The main point at issue during the early history of the county was the question of herd-law versus free range The question was submitted to the people in local communities at various times before statehood. (2) It was

(2) Records of the County Election Board (1894)

settled only at statehood when free range was forbidden everywhere in the state.

The Democrat party has always been in power in the county except during the short period before the first election when all the appointed officers were Republicans.

One of the most important events in the history of the county was the removal of the county seat from Cloud Chief to Cordell. The rivalry that had existed between

the two towns from the beginning resulted in active agitation in 1899 for the removal of the county seat to Cordell. Cordell's location in the exact center of the county was advanced as the chief reason for the removal (1)

(1) Statement of H. D. Young

The fight was a bitter one. In order for an election to be called it was necessary for a petition from the voters of the county to be presented to the county commissioners. A third attempt was required to secure this petition due to the fact that the first two were thrown out on contention that the signatures were secured illegally. (2) J. W. Smith and B. H. Baker

(2) Statement of J. W. Smith

in turn represented Cloud Chief in the capacity of attorney. (3)

(3) ibid

The petition was finally secured and the election was ordered for August 7, 1900. Many old-timers reaall the incident in this connection that resulted in the application of tar and feathers to Slaton Baker, son of B. H. Baker, by the citizens of Cloud Chief for alleged bad faith in the matter of failing to file some papers at El Reno in time to have the election postponed (4)

(4) Statement of Mr. Mirth

The proposition carried by a vote of 1340 to 247 (1)

(1) Records of the County Election Board

Immediately Cloud Chief contested the legality of the election by securing a Writ of Mandamus on the ground that the Organic Act did not provide for any such procedure. (2)

(2) Statement of H. D. Young

That the friends of Cloud Chief had some grounds for their contention was shown by the Grant County case which had gone to the territorial Supreme Court. The people of Grant County had attempted to remove the county seat from Pond Creek to Medford and as a final word in the contest which followed the Supreme Court said the people of a territory had no power to remove a county seat. (3)

(3) 10 Oklahoma Reports. P. 105

But Cordell was determined and emboldened by the large majority by which the election had carried. The government of the county was promptly moved to Cordell. This was accomplished by the simple method of loading the court house and county jail on wagons and hauling them to Cordell where they were duly deposited in the City square. (October 1900)(1)The county officers

(4) Statement of H. W. Smith - H. D. Young

took up their work at Cordell and the actual work of removal was complete. However, when the time came fo

district court, Judge McAtee attempted to hold court at Cloud Chief while Judge Irwin was holding court at Cordell. Finally Judge McAtee gave in and the court was held at Cordell.

The legal battle continued for five years. H. N. Berry and F. T. Cook were most active in trying to have the county seat removed back to Cloud Chief. J. W. Smith who earlier in the contest had represented Cloud Chief, now represented Cordell with the assistance of Sam Massingale. (1) Efforts were being made to have the

(1) Statement of J. W. Smith

question settled by direct acts of Congress. Sam Massingale and later John S. Lee and C. C. Curtis were sent to Washington to work for legislation. (2) Their

(2) H. D. Young

efforts were successful and on December 4, 1905 the long contest was ended when Congress passed a bill declaring the county seat of Washita county to be at Cordell(3)

(3) Statement of Cordell Beacon, Dec. 12, 1905

Another movement of great importance to the county was an attempt to divide Washita and form a new county. The movement was started in 1909 to secure the creation of a new county from territory taken from Washita, Kiowa, and Caddo Counties. Many people on the eastern side of Washita County had been dissatisfied for some time because

they felt that they were not getting enough attention in regard to construction of roads and other matters. (1)

(1) Statement of Zack King

There was talk of inconpetency and dishonesty in office.

The leaders of the movement were Zack King of Colony, who was township trustee, and Echols Harris who represented Washita County in the state legislature. (2)

(2) ibid

In September 1909 meetings were held at various places in the county to discuss the proposition. The plan formulated was that the county seat of Washita County should be voted to Dill, on the western side of the county, so that more territory could be taken from the eastern side when the division should take place. (3)

(3) ibid

An organization was formed with Tom Witten as secretary to raise funds for expenses and promote the campaign.

The election on the proposition of locating the county seat at Dill was called for January 8, 1910. J. Lee Smith of Dill and Zack King were the most active workers for it. But the people did not want the county seat removed and the proposition was turned down by the decisive vote of 819 for and 2575 against it. (4)

(4) Records county Election Board. 1910

In spite of the failure of the plan to remove the county-seat the movement for the division of the county went ahead. Among the names considered for the proposed new county were Cook, Union, Seger, and Zack King. On March 4, 1911 the people in the territory concerned were asked to vote on the following proposition, "Shall a new county to be known as Seger County be formed out of parts of the counties of Kiowa, Washita, and Caddo in Oklahoma (1)

(1) Records County Election Board - (1910

The proposition lost by fourteen votes, the count being yes 348, no 362 (2)

(2) ibid

A complete list of officers were chosen for the proposed Seger County at this election. The offecers chosen were: (3)

County Judge----------Robert Godbey
County Attorney----------J. W. Ford
County Sheriff----------A. R. Lawson
County Treasurer----------C. F. Clark
County Register of Deeds-------J. T. Stephenson
County Assessor----------Otis Lee
County Clerk----------J. A. Long
County Superintendent---------Will Pearcy

(3) ibid

CHAPTER V

WASHITA COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

When in 1917 the people of Washita county found themselves faced with the problem of carrying on their share of a great war they turned from the ordinary pursuits of life and entered upon their new tasks with vigor.

Soon after Congress passed the Selective Service Act President Wilson appointed, upon the nomination of Governor Williams, a County Registration Board, whose duty it was to manage the task of registering the men of military age in the county. The men appointed to this board were R. L. Harvey, mayor of Cordell, H. L. Rigsbee, County Clerk, and Dr. W. R. Leverton, county health officer, Dr. A. S. Neal soon succeeded Dr. Leverton and the board was organized with Harvey as chairman. Rigsbee as secretary, and Neal as examining physician. (1)

(1) Cordell Beacon, June 12, 1919

As soon as the first registration was over the board was converted into the Local Examination Board (Exemption Board) When the questionaire plan of selection was adopted Tim Warren was made chief clerk of the board. In September, 1917 A. M. Beets succeeded Mr. Rigsbee as

secretary. S. C. Massingale became chairman instead of Mr. Harvey in February, 1918 (1)

(1) ibid.

To this board fell the task of selecting the men to fill the contingents as they were called for. A summary of their work gives an idea of the contribution of the county in this respect. On June 5, 1917 there were registered 2032 men between the ages of 21 and 35. One year later were registered 212 who had reached 21 since the first registration. On August 24, 1918, thirty two more were enrolled, and September 12, 1918 were registered 2,357 between the ages of 18 and 45. Of the total, 4,633, who registered in the county there were 37 Indians and 4 Negroes. Having completed the work for which it was created the board was formally discharged May 1, 1919 (2)

(2) Cordell Beacon - June 12, 1919

There was comparatively little trouble with draft evaders in this county. Of the 4,633 registrants only 22 were listed as deserters. This is one-half of one per cent as compared with 2.66% for the state. (3)

(3) Cordell Beacon - June 12, 1919

For the purpose of aiding the men to fill out their questionnaires correctly and comply with the law there was created a Legal Advisory Board. As far as possible this board was drawn from the legal profession. O. F.

Renegar, county judge, was made chairman, with J. A. Duff and R. A. Billups as directors. In addition to these there were fifty-one associate members in the county, many of them laymen. (1)

(1) Cordell Beacon - June 12, 1919

The position of County Food Admistrator, as the local representative of the food admistration program, was created. George Bishop of Dill, was appointed to the position but, due to the fact that he could not give sufficient time to it, he resigned and R. L. Harvey was appointed in March, 1918. Mr. Harvey served until the end of the war. (2) Through this agency the farmers of

(2) ibid.

the county were encouraged to market all their surplus flour and wheat. Within a few days 33,800 bushels of wheat was broughtto the elevators. (3) In May, 1918

(3) ibid.

more than 28,000 pounds of flour was collected. (4)

(4) Cordell Beacon June 12, 1919

There was little opposition to the rules in regard to food conservation. In at least two instances, however, farmers were fored to bring in flour and wheat against their will. (5)

(5) Statement of Alvin Birgamae

Working in close cooperation with the Food Administration and other boards was the County Council

of Defense. This board was appointed in November, 1917, by Governor R. L. Williams. It was composed of R. B. McDonald, chairman, J. A. Robinson, George Bishop, Charles Miller and Mrs. Washti Stone. In February, 1918, additional appointments were made the board was re-organized. It now was composed of Alvin Binganan, chairman, A. R. Ash, secretary, J. A. Robinson, treasurer, L. M. Strong, Frank Bolking, Bob Champlin, Charles Hoover, Dr. J. S. Boker, Del Robinson, J. A. Duff, R. F. Evans, Charles Johnson, Fred Graves, William Busby, Geo. C. Wilson, Claud King, T. G. Sappington, Perry harrison, E. H. Houston, R. L. Harvey, and H. F. Foliver This was the composition of the board until its discharge on January 15, 1919. (1)

(1) Cordell Beacon June 12, 1919

The function of this board was to investigate cases of disloyalty and when necessary to take measures to compel conformity to the requests of the government. They took an active part in the sale of liberty bonds and was savings stamps and in Red Cross campaigns. They assisted the food administrator when necessary to enforce the delivery of supplus wheat and flour. (2) One of

(2) ibid.

their most drastic measures was the issuing of an order in May, 1918, closing the doors of the Cordell Christian College for the remainder of the war. This action was

taken after an investigation of the alleged pacific doctrines being taught by the president Armstrong. (1)

(1) Alvin Bingaman (Statement)

Another instance of decisive action was the forbidding of John Simpson, of Weatherford, to come within the county again after making an address to an audience at Bessie. (2)

(2) Cordell Beacon June 12, 1919

Washita County's sacrifice in lives lost mounts to thirty-seven. Of these deaths seventeen were caused by disease.

For the names of those citizens of Washita C ounty who lost their lives in the World War see Appendix II P.

In spite of the fact both 1917 and 1918 were unfavorable years for agriculture in Washita County, the people did their part toward supporting the war financially.

The Liberty Loan Campaigns were in charge of H. F. Joliver, except the Victory Loan which was managed by Frank Kkiemen. (1)

Statement of H. F. Joliver

In the first loan, june, 1917, the quotas for the counties were not so well defined as they were in the later ones but the county did its share. (2) In the second

(2) Cordell Beacon - Nov. 1, 1917

October, 1917 the quota was set extremely high, $238,000 maximun and $143,000 minimun. The county was unable

to reach so high a figure, but did raise a total of $125,625. (1) The quota for the third campign, April,

(1) Cordell Beacon Nov. 1, 1917

1918, was over subscribed and in the fourth when the quota was $24,400 a total of $76,350 was raised. (2)

(2) Cordell Beacon June 1, 1919

In the Victory Loan of April and May, 1919 the quota was $24,000 and the amount subscribed was again about $75,000. (3)

(3) ibid.

In the United War Work Campign of November, 1918, the quota for the county was set at $4,800. The amount raised was $8,269.10. G. A. W. Fleming was in charge of the drive. (4)

(4) ibid.

The greatest single drive for funds was for the sale of War Saving Stamps. The committee appointed to handle the work was composed of J. A . Duff, chairman, G. A. W. Fleming, vice-chairman, A. W. Anderson, publicity manager, and Albert Eaton. June 28, 1918 was a holiday in the county, it being designated by President Wilson as National War Savings Day. Meetings were held in school districts throughout the county and the people were urged to buy stamps. The amount raised on that day was

$436,000 which fell about one third short of the $656,000 set as a quota. (1)

(1) Cordell Beacon June 1, 1919

The Washita County chapter of the American Red Cross was organized in June, 1917. The officers were S. C. Massingale, chairman, Mrs. Roy McDonald, vice-chairman, Mrs. C. E. Thornton, secretary, R. W. Hutto, treasurer. Mrs. S. C. Burrett soon replaced Mrs Thornton and J. A. Robinson replaced Mr. Hutto. (2)

ibid

Eight branches of the county chapter were organized and twenty one auxiliaries. Those in charge of the branch organizations were: Mrs. J. L. Hull, Cordell; Mrs. U. J. Sutterfield, Sentinel; Mrs. B. A. Dyas, Rocky; Mr. R. K. Gernent, Cloud Chief; Mrs. C. C. Armstrong, Foss; Mrs. Phil Neary, Canute. (3)

(3) Cordell Beacon, June 1, 1919

The organization contributed 147,156 surgical dressings 11,706 surgical supplies; 5000 knitted garments; 2,325 refugee garments; and 200 comfort kits. Ten thousand pounds of worn clothing was sent to war stricken countries. (4)

(4) ibid

CHAPTER VI

EDUUCATIONAL PROGRESS

I - Public Schools

The organization of the public schools began in the first year of the county's existence. Frank J. Cook who was appointed county superintendent until the first election organized a township school at Cloud Chief and one at Colony in 1892. H. D. Young became county superintendent at the first election and continued the organization. Near the beginning of his administration the district system was substituted by the legislature for the township system and Mr. Young began the organization under the district system, beginning on the west side of the county and numbering the districts in order of their formation. (1)

(1) H. D. Young in Cordell Beacon - July 15, 1926

The work of the rural schools has been carried on under the supervision of the following county superintendents; 1892 - Frank T. Cook; 1892-94 - H. D. Young; 1894-98 G. W. Hunt; 1898-1900 S. J. Jordon; 1900-1904 J. S. Norton; 1904-1907 R. L. Knie; 1907-1912 - F. H. Hubbard; 1912-16 J. M. Wallace; 1916-20 Albert Eaton; 1920-24 S. G. Thomas; 1924-28 Gertrude Hartley. (2)

(2) Records County Election Board 1892-1924

The records of the superintendents before 1902 are not available. The progress of the schools of the county may be indicated by the annual reports beginning with that date. (1)

(1) County Superintendents' Annual Report

1902-03

Enumeration----------7541

Enrollment----------5386

Average Attendance----------3023

Total expenditures----------$49,776.30

Average Salary----------$205.09

Expenditure per teacher--------$444.43

1907-08

Enumeration----------8923

Enrollment----------7274

Average Attendance----------4120

Number of Schools----------101

Number of teachers----------128

Average annual salary----------$304.64

Total Expenditure----------$58,929.30

Expenditure per teacher--------$460.30

1912-13

Enumeration----------8478

Enrollment----------7274

Average Attentence----------4709

Number of Schools----------95

Number of teachers----------174

Average annual salary----------$401.53

Total expenditure----------$97,357.58

Expenditure per teacher----------$559.52

The decrease in the number of schools in this period is due to consolidation. Canute was consolidated in 1908. Cowden, Dill, and Lake Valley were consolidated in 1911. Other consolidated districts in the county are Foss and Port both organized in 1922. (1)

(1) Gertrude Hartley, County Superintendent

1917-18

Enumeration ----------7903

Enrollment----------6992

Average attendance----------5965

Number of schools----------93

Number of teachers----------178

Average annual salary----------$516.71

Total expenditure----------$126,024.42

Expenditure per teacher ----------$708.11

1922-23

Enumeration ----------7042

Enrollment ----------6092

Average Attendance ----------5965

Number of Schools----------86

Number of teachers----------170

Average annual salary----------$775.33

Total expenditures----------$180,192.41

Expenditure per teacher----------$1059.95

The further decrease in the number of schools in this period is due to more consolidation and the formation of two union graded districts. U.G. No. 1 at Colony was formed in 1919 and U. G. No 2 at Cloud Chief was formed in 1921. (1)

(1) Gertrude Hartley, County Superintendent

1925-26

Enumeration----------7253

Enrollment----------6501

Average Attendance----------4327

Number of Schools----------85

Number of teachers----------181

Average annual salary----------$746.44

Total expenditure----------$189,536.72

Expenditure per teacher----------$1047.16

The independent districts in the county are Cordell Sentinel, and Rocky.

A comparison between the schools of Washita County and those of other counties in the state shows them to be among the lower half in most items of comparison. The folling figures show the rank of the county in various

respects. (1)

(1) State Department of Education Bul. No. 110-1925

Average Length of School term ---------- 156 days

Rank ---------- 68 th

Per cent that H. S. Attendance is of total ----- 12.4

Rank ---------- 47 th

Per cent that boys are of girls in H. S. ------ 94

Rank ---------- 7th

Expenditure per child in average attendance --- $44.62

Rank ---------- 52nd

Average annual expenditure per teacher -------- $1063.

Rank ---------- 63rd

Average annual teachers salary ---------- $803.

Rank ---------- 62nd

Per cent of teachers having two or more years of college training ---------- 14.4

Rank ---------- 64th

Average valuation per scholastic ---------- $2376

Rank ---------- 38th

The movement for model schools began in the county in 1924. There are now thirty-five of the model and superior model class. (2)

(2) Gertrude Hadley, County Superintendent

In addition to the public schools in the county there are the Oklahoma Christian College, The Corn Bible School and the Colony Indian School. At one time there was the Reformed Academy and the Advent School both now discontinued.

The Oklahoma Christian College was opened at Cordell in September 1907, and was known as the Cordell Christian College. J. N. Armstrong was the first president. The school is supported by the Church of Christ. The buildings which were built and owned by the City of Cordell consisted of a two story brick school building and a frame dormitory. It continued with a fair degree of success until 1918 when, for reasons explained elsewhere (P.45) it was discontinued. In 1921 the City of Cordell deed^ed the property to the church and the school opened September 6, 1921, as Western Oklahoma Christian College. (1) Ira W. Winterrowd was their

(1) Annual Catalog 1925-26

president and Ulrich R. Beeson was dean. The present president, W. Claud Hall came to the position in 1925. In 1923 the State Board of Education recognized the work of the school for sixty hours, thus establishing it as a Junior College. Since 1924 the school has been known

as Oklahoma Christian College (1)

(1) ibid

The primary purpose of the school as stated in their catalog is "to develop genuine Christian men and women and to equip them for efficient service in all fields of endeavor that are honest."

The Corn Bible Academy at Corn is conducted under the direction of the Mennonte Brethren Church. It opened for the first time in 1902 with D. J. Classen serving as instructor. D. L. Schellenburg taught in 1904-05. and J. T. Duerksen was in charge from 1905 to 1916, with the exception of 1911-12 when no instruction was given. From 1916 to 1918 D. F. S traus was instructor. In 1918-19 no instruction was given, "due to lack of available instructors". H. D. Weibe taught in 1919-20 and in 1920-21 Miss Nellie Flaming was added as assistant. Since 1921 H. D. Weibe and J. J. Weibe have comprised the faculty.

In 1926-27 there were sixty-five students.

Reverend Isaac Harms was the leader in the movement to found the school. (2)

(2) Annual Catalog 1927-28

The Colony Indian School, at Colony, is a reservation School. Its beginning was the result of the labor of John Seger as recounted elsewhere in this thesis (P. 25)

The first two buildings were constructed in 1890 of bricks made of native clay. Mr. Seger served as Superintendent of the school until 1898. (1)

(1) John Seger (Statement)

The school is now in charge of W. T. Dias, Day School Inspector of the Cheyenne-Arapohoe Jurisdiction. It has an enrollment of about one hundred thirty boys and girls from the various tribes - Cherokee, Choctaw, Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Creek, and Kickapoo, as well as about thirty from the Cheyenne and Arapohoe. (2)

(2) Statement of W. T. Dias

Instruction is given up to and including the sixth grade. Half time is given to instruction in literary subjects and half time to industrial training. The industrial training consists of sewing, cooking, home making, poultry, raising, carpentry, etc. (3)

(3) ibid

The Reformed Church Academy, or Cordell Academy, was opened at Cordell in September, 1906, under the leadership of Myron B. Keaton. It was located in the building now occupied by the Junior High School. It opened with four teachers and sixty-seven students. In 1907-08 it had five teachers and fourty-five students.

At the close of this year it suspended operation. (1)

(1) Annual Reports County Supt. 1906-07; 1907-08; 1908-09

An Advent School was opened in Cordell in 1907. It consisted of one teacher and twenty-eight students. After one year of operation it closed its doors. (2)

(2) Annual Reports County Supt. 1907-08 & 1908-09

Washita County has contributed steadily to the student body of higher institutions of learning in Oklahoma. From 1908 to 1928 the number of students matriculating at Oklahoma University has shown a steady increase. In 1907-08 there were four; 1912-13 five; 1917-18 twenty-five; 1922-23 thirty-nine; 1927-28 fifty four (3)

(3) Annual Catalogues - Oklahoma University

Many have gone to Southwestern State Teachers College at Weatherford and Oklahoma A. and M. College at Stillwater while some have gone to Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee, Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha, Oklahoma Presbyterian College at Durant, and elsewhere.

An institution of importance both as an educational factor and a social factor in the county was the Summer Normal. These were held each summer, usually in the county seat. It finally became a custom, however, to alternate among several towns of the county including Cordell, Rocky, and Sentinel. (4)

(4) Statement of Mrs. S. J. Jordon

The primary purpose of the normals was to increase the proficiency of the teachers of the county in the Common School branches and enable them to pass the examination for the certificate. Some instruction was given in pedagogy and phychology. (1)

(1) Statement of J. M. Dale

The county superintendent was in charge as administrator while the instruction was given usually by teachers from Central State Normal at Edmond and later from Southwestern Normal at Weatherford. The first one was held under the administration of H. D. Young in 1893 or 1894 with Professor Umboltz in charge of instruction. (2)

(2) Statement of H. D. Young

Among those well remembered as instructors is J. M. Dale who conducted three Normals at Cloud Chief (1898-99-1900) and one at Cordell (1901). He was assisted by Eugene Forbes (3) Other instructors at various times were S. D.

(3) Statement of J. M. Dale

Crane, J. M. Wallace, M. T. McAlester, and Floyd Wheeler The usual attendance was fifty to one hundred. (4)

(4) ibid

CHAPTER VII

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A survey of the wealth and resources of Washita County represents a record of remarkable achievement for a period of thirty-six years. On April 18, 1892, the day before the opening, the wealth of the county was represented only by the possibilities which lay in its unbroken sod. With the exception of the Indian School at Colony and a few herds of cattle the region was entirely uninhabited.

With the coming of the settlers and the establishment of the government came the necessity for raising revenue with which to carry on. Roads and bridges must be built and the salaries of the officers must be paid. As there was no property subject to taxation immediately it was necessary to devise other means of financing the county. Some revenue could be raised from such sources as the fees for license for the sale of liquor but this was small in comparison with the needs. To meet the situation the warrants against the county were paid in script to be redeemed at par. (1) Some of the script

(1) Proceedings of the County Commissioners April 1892

was never redeemed at par, but sold for as little as

ten per cent of its face value. (1)

(1) Statement of Harve Dean

By 1909 the county was able to go on a cash basis' At that time the assessed valuation was $11,217,560. This wealth has steadily increased until it amounted to $18,151,110 in 1927. (2)

(2) Statement of County Clerk

The advance of Washita County from an undeveloped region to its present position as one of the leading counties of the state is due almost if not quite entirely to its agriculture. It is a rectangualr tract of land fourty-two miles east and west by twenty-four miles north and south. The average elevation is about 1400 feet. (3)

(3) Report U. S. Weather bureau 1920 - Sec. 41 - P. 3

Its climate and rainfall with the natural fertility of the land makes it admirably fitted for agriculture. The twenty year average rainfall is 28.35 inches with fifty days on which more than .01 inch of moisture falls. (4)

(4) ibid

The mean temperature is 59.4°, the highest on record being 113° and the lowest -14°. The average date of the last killing frost is April 5, the first November 1. The earliest on record is October 12, and the latest May 1.

The average growing season is thus 211 days. (1)

(1) Report U. S. Weather Bureau 1920 - Sec. 41 - P. 3

Being on the border of the wheat belt to the north and the cotton belt to the south the county is well located for the growing of both these crops. Absence of boll-weavils is another important factor in the raising of cotton.

A little cotton was grown in 1894 and the acreage has steadily increased since that time. In 1919 there were 38,821 acres with a yield of 15,100 bales; 1920 - 53,400 acres with a yield of 26,700 bales. 1924 - 11,112 acres with a yield of 54,720 bales. The 1926 yield was 85,300 bales with a sale value of $5,000,000 (2) This cotton is

(2) Preliminary announcement - Dept of commerce Oct. 1, 1925

handled by 29 gins in various parts of the county. (3)

(3) Statement of County Farm Agent

Next to cottom wheat is the most important crop. Its importance is indicated by the following figures. (4)

year	acreage	production
1919	173,633	2,880,814
1920	140,409	2,948,589
1924	110,158	2,203,990
1926	115,000	2,070,000

(4) ibid

Modern machinery is used in the production of wheat. Approximately 150 combine harvesters were used in the 1928 harvest. (1) There are 526 tractors registered

(1) Statement of County Agent

in the county (2). These machines are increasing at

(2) County Automobile Tag Agent

an annual rate of 10 per cent to 20 per cent. Anumber of wheat growers in the county have their own elevators.

Most of the corn raised in the county is consumed locally. In 1919 there were 37,492 acres which produced 1,028,371 bushels. The 1920 acreage was 31,839 with a yield of 673,691 bushels (3)

(3) Press Summary - Dept. Commerce Oct 2, 1925

The agriculture program is further diversified by the production of grain sorghums, oats, barley, broomcorn, alfalfa, sweet clover, sugar, poultry and dairy products. A survey by the Cordell Chamber of Commerce of the dairy resources in 1928 revealed 15,760 dairy cows which produced an average total of 32,169 gallons of milk daily. In 1927 the cream stations of the county bought 260,000 pounds of butter fat. The surveyors estimated a total of 690,296 chickens which produced 2,998,442 dozen eggs annually.

In 1925 there were 3644 farms in the county operated by 3641 white farmers and 3 negroes. Of these 1691 owned their farms making the percentage of tenantry 53.5. In 1910 the percentage of tenantry was 44.3 and in 1920 it was 38.5. (1)

(1) Press Summary - Dept. Commerce Oct. 2, 1925

The value of the farms including the buildings is given at $25,754,455. (2)

(2) ibid

The raising of livestock is one of the important industries. The number of animals on the farms of the county is estimated as follows: horses 13,401; mules 7,001; Swine 23,207; cattle 28,323 of which 18,010 are dairy cattle.

CHAPTER VIII

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT

The population of Washita County in 1920 was 22,237. This was a decrease of 11.2 per cent from the 25,034 for 1910 and a very slight increase over the population (22,007) at the time of statehood in 1907. It represents a growth, however from 15,001 in 1900 (1)

(1) 14th census Vol. I P. 124

and possibly 8,000 or 10,000 who came in at the opening in 1892.

An analysis of this population shows it to be composed of 95.2 per cent native Born whites. (2)

(2) ibid

In 1920 there were 941 whites of foreign birth. Of these 603 were born in Russia, 164 were born in Germany and 32 were born in Norway. There were a few from each of a dozen other countries. (3) The Indian

(3) ibid

population numbered 261 in 1920 as compared with 312 in 1900. There were 11 negroes in the county in 1920. (4)

(4) ibid

The number of people per square mile is 22.1 as compared with 29.2 for the state. (5)

(5) ibid

The church has been an important factor in the lives of the people from the first. In 1916 there were 6,661 persons in the county who were affiliated with some denomination. Of these the Methodist Episcopal was in the lead with 1506. Other denominations followed in this order: Baptist (Southern Convention) 1347; Church of Christ 1180; Menmonites 802; Roman Catholic 442; Presbyterian 375; Brethren 150; Congregational 64; Disciples of Christ 50; Lutheran 30; Penetecostal Church of the Nazarene 80; Free Methodists 26; All others 609 (1)

(1) Bureau of Census - 1916 Religious Bodies - Part 1. P.300

The organization of fraternal orders began in the county at an early date. Perhaps the first of these was the Masons. The first charter was granted to lodge number 37 at Cordell on February 9, 1898 (2) Present at

(2) Charter of Feb. 9, 1898

the first meeting under this charter, April 9, 1898 were W. B. Leverton (W. M.) E. R. Ross (P.W.), A. J. Johnson (J.W.) R. P. Burger, J. F. Bishop, W. J. Dickson, J. A. Jester, J. M. Rhodes, and H. D. Young. (3)

(3) Minutes of the secretary

Soon after the consolidation of the two territories into the new state a new work was adopted and the Cordell

chapter was given a new charter as lodge number 127, (Feb. 9, 1909). Ivan C. Burnett was Worshipful Master and Lot Jones was Senior Warden. (1)

(1) Charter of Feb. 9, 1909

There are now four lodges of Masons in the county - Cordell, Sentinel, Rocky, and Retrop - with a combined membership of perhaps 600. (2)

(2) M. Boatright -(Statement)

The first chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in the county was organized at Cordell April 29, 1908. There were twenty charter members of whom Mrs. Sam Massingale, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Armfield, Mrs. A. R. Ash, and Mrs. Alma Kerlen are still living in the county. The membership in 1928 is 140. Chapters are also located at Sentinel, Foss and Retrop (3)

(3) Mrs. W. T. Ford (Statement)

Rebecca lodge number 75 organized at Cordell in 1902 was perhaps the first lodge of that order in the county. (4) Mr. and Mrs. Will Petty and Mrs. Mary F. Steinman, who still live in Cordell were charter members. (5)

(4) Statement of Mr. and Mrs Will Petty

(5) Statement of Mrs. Steinman

Miss Mae Evans was secretary. (1) This lodge maintained

(1) Statement of Mrs. Steinman

a rather precarious existence until a new charter was granted on April 19, 1907 to seven members. Of these Mrs. Tom Brown and Frank Thompson are still in the county. (2)

(2) Statement of Mrs. Tom Brown

There are now seven Rebecca lodges in the county - Cordell, Dill, Foss, Cowden, Sentinel, Retrop, and Canute. The combined membership is about five hundred. (3)

(3) Statement of Mrs. J. A. Robinson

The Cosmopolitan Club at Cordell, the only one in the county, was organized in 1904 with a limited membership of twenty. In 1912 it was affiliated with the National Federation of Women's Clubs (4)

(4) Statement of Mrs. I. L. Hull

On November 12, 1924 was organized at Cordell a chapter of the P. E. O. Sisterhood. This is a national organization formed by college women in 1869 at Ohio Wesleyan University. It now has forty thousand members and thirteen chapters in thirty-five states. The Cordell chapter is fostering through its educational loan fund the education of two girls. Mrs. J. M. Miller is president of the chapter. (5)

(5) Statement of Mrs. J. M. Miller

A mere statement of the number and character of the people is dull and not particularly significant, however necessary it may be for a study of the social development of the community. Back of these facts there is the romance and the hardships of settlement in an undeveloped country. This story can be known well only to those who actually experienced it, but as many of these people are still with us it is easy to get a glimpse of this development. A contemporary account of the life in Washita County in the early days is given by Mrs. Charlie Carlise who lived in the west side of the county and who was the teacher of the first school at Dill.

" People came in every kind of conveyance(anything that would hold a few housekeeping articles). One would quite frequently see an old, rickety buggy drawn by burrows, again the ox-cart would be seen.

"These people who came in the winter had serious problems to face. Food couldbe found on the prairies in the form of rabbits, prairie chickens, etc. (but there was no wood) The fences of older settlers was the only thing to be had. A traveler who came across a fence did the "dehorning" act that was cutting the posts off down to the first wire. When they were all dehorned the next to pass took enough posts to build

his fire and so it went for years. 70

"The homes of the first settlers were dugouts or half-dugouts and the well-to-do had palatial sod houses. A well constructed sod house is not bad looking and to the dugout dwellers they were simply grand.

"The people who lived in these homes were, as a rule, cleanly and hospitable and always ready to help those less fortunate. They were deeply religious. Every one went to church services which were held in a dugout in the winter and an arbor in the summer. The women and children were spic and span in calico dresses and sometimes crowned with a hat made of corn shucks. This cornshuck hat was pretty, sometimes showing the touch of a real artist.

"During the preaching everyone had to be perfectly reverent, no matter what came up that was laughable no one dared to laugh.

"Every Sunday night when there was no preaching, singing was given at some home. If there happened to be an organ in the neighborhood the boys would hitch themselves to the farm wagon and bring the organ to the place where the singing was to be held. They sang, too, no getting outside and smoking and drinking, but each one tried to see how well he could sing.

"Sometimes there would be a party during the evening, but no one danced at these home affairs. Sometimes dances would be given but they were frowned upon by the "Better People". The thought that snap, drop the handkerchief, shoot the buffalo, etc. were the height of amusement.

"Those who were inclined to dance got their fill during the Fourth of July celebrations. No year passed without sometown or community having a July picnic. The people came for miles and miles to these affairs, they enjoyed every minute of the day and two-thirds of the night. They would hitch their team to the wagon, drive out a little way and sleep the rest of the night, then drive home next day.

"Schools were taught in dugouts, term three months, and a thirty dollar salary was too high. In our district a young girl taught the first term in a rock-fronted dugout. A little box stove was the heating system. Half the time there was no fuel other than that picked up over the prairie (buffalo chips or cow chips). During this term there came a blizzard; there were eighteen children to keep warm in that cold, almost fireless place; the teacher managed to keep her charges warm but she came out with frozen feet.

"The next year Miss------ was offered the school again. One old man rode all over the district trying

to get people to object "For", said he, "it is wrong for one person to get all that money".

"The teacher who attended the Summer Normal was some to "look up to." Each summer a normal was held, usually in the county seat. The supreme head was the county superintendent. The teacher who held a first grade certificate was "somebody" and when the teachers boarded around the first grade teacher was as a president might be received nowdays." (1)

(1) Statement of Mrs. Charley Carlisle.

One of the most prominent among the teachers of the county was Mrs. S. J. Jordan who came to the county with her husband in 1893. The accounts she gives of how the people managed to carry on sometimes without the things that are usually thought of as absolute essentials are most interesting. Says Mrs. Jordan in regard to pioneer life in Washita County:

"Of course, like all new countries, the social life was of the simplest nature.

"Money was scarce, household furnishings were menger, but for all the hard times the people were happy, friendly, sociable.

"There was no recognition of "class." Every one was

a neighbor and ready at all times to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

"The chief forms of social diversion were numerous singings led (in Hagy community and others adjacent) by Mr. B. B. White (ablind man) Mr. A. J. Bell, and Mr. Wilson Haynes.

"Spelling matches, too, were much enjoyed as they furnished "get together" occasions which were very necessary in this new rather sparsely settled country.

"The Literary Society flourished in those early days and we all went and took part if called upon. One particularly interesting program had "The Old Cow Crossed the Road, Sir" sung in operatic fashion by a young lady while the audience was convulsed with laughter. All there was to it was a repetition of the words, "The Old Cow Crossed the Road, Sir, and "Why Did the Old Cow Cross the Road, Sir? She Crossed the Road, Sir, Because She Crossed the Road." Just imagine if you can the silence at first as people heard the operatic mimicry and then the roars of laughter as people laughed till tears ran down their cheeks.

"Another selection that invariably brought much laughter was given by a man dressed in a long tailed coat-

a dress coat from his wedding day. He wore glasses and began in very solemn tones, A B C D E F G, and then each peroration would begin at "A" again and carry a little farther with impassioned appeal and a raising and lowering of the voice. The audience would soon be giving laughter and cheers.

"One little boy, so very small, got up very sedately and started out very sonorously with "The boy stood on the burning deck" Then he would twist his tie on a button, hitch his trousers up and repeat a little louder "The boy stood on the burning deck--" Then more embarrassment and all were just aching to prompt him but a little louder came "The boy stood on the burning deck--" After three or four repeated and apparrently embarrassed attempts and our sympathy was actually almost causing us to weep he said, "And he just kept a standing there." Naturally the climax was too much for us and how we all laughed.

"Fish fries too, were another means of getting together for a day of social enjoyment. The Washita River was teeming then with thousands of large cat-fish. The boys would go early with seines and catch and clean the fish, collect drift wood for frying the fish, making the coffee, and if as late as July for boiling the roasting the roasting ears. How we all enjoyed the picnic dinner.

"There were pound suppers where each boy would take a pound, or can of fruit, pears, apricots, cherries, peaches etc. and the women and girls would take cakes, chiefest among the cakes being a jelly cake. Candy breakings and candy pullings also furnished some degree of social pleasure. In the winter time there were oyster suppers. Money was so very scarce that things that took money were almost taboo.

"There were no real camp-meetins in those early days such as many of us had been accustomed to in the older states, but there was an occasional revival meeting which all attended regardless of denominational belief.

"The educational facilities were so meager and people were so hungry for anything that would afford them amusement or social entertainment that the closing of schools brought out more people than could be seated in the poor crude box schoolhouses or half dugouts. Seats were usually made of cotton-wood slabs with pegs put through either end for supports.

"Brush arbors were built for summer revivals and occasionally for summber schools.

"The county Normals were for helping teachers over the county to become acquainted with each other, exchange ideas, and improve their methods and training. This was accomplished after 1896 principally. S. D. Chase of

El Reno conducted the 1896 Normal at Cloud Chief. In 1898 and 1899 two teachers were necessary as the normals increased in attendance. These instructors were Eugene Forbes of Weatherford and J. M. Dale of Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City.

"Later they divided the normal into "A","B", and "C" classes. Those preparing to teach for the first time were in "C" class and could only be issued a third grade certificate. Those who had taught one year could enter class "B" and be required to take more subjects and were elegible to receive second grade certificates, while those who held second grade certificates could enter class "A" or, if their educational qualifications justified they were in the way of promotions. Though no credits were given many did a lot of high school work in this way.

"During these normals men in the higher educational institutions visited and gave lectures, such state characters as S. M. Hopkins, L. W. Baxter, David R. Boyd, E. D. Murdaugh, and others.

"The mode of travel was, of course, by buggy or stage and many were the miles traveled across those prairies to light a little lamp that some ambitious boy or girl might steer his or her educational bark into waters where they might have a deeper draft." (1)

(1) Statement of Mr. S. J. Jordan

The conditions known and described by these older residents who toiled to make a home in a new land have rapidly passed away to be replaced by a new order. The horses and buggies that transported our pioneers have been replaced by automobiles. The muddy lanes have been replaced by improved roads. The isolation of the farmer has been vanquished by 10191 miles of telephone line within the county.(1)

(1) Records Bd. State of Equalization

Twenty-eight rural routes from ten Post offices deliver the mail daily. The people are served by three railroads with a total mileage of 75.47 miles. (2) The

(2) ibid

community entertainments to which the people gathered have served their purpose and passed with the old order. The lively old tunes that came from the fiddle and the banjo have been replaced by the radio concert from the farthest corners of the country. A new order, and a better one, greets the new generation, but to the participants in that older order who made a virtue of necessity and transformed a bleak prairie into a prosperous community the new generation owes an everlasting debt of gratitude.

APPENDIX I

COUNTY OFFICERS

I -The officers that have served Washita County, since the first election are as follows. (1)

(1) Records of the County Election Board - 1892-1926

Sheriff:

1892-96 - J. W. Wood; 1896-98 - W. H. Griffin; 1898-1900 - D. M. Morrison; 1900-1902 - J. W. Miller; 1902-04 - J. S. Henry; 1904-1910 - W. H. Griffin; 1910-14 - Doc Hutcherson; 1914-18 J. A. Standerfer; 1918-22- W. H. Dean; 1924-28 J. W. Miller

Attorney

1892-94 J. B. Juke; 1894-96 J. C. Hendrix; 1896-98 F. B. Duke; 1898-1900 B. H. Boker; 1900-1904 - F. A. Edwards; 1904-07 W. J. Knott; 1907-1912 Rutherford Brett; 1912-18 A. R. Ash; 1918-28 J. B. Springer.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

1892-94 H. D. Young; 1894-98 G. W. Hunt; 1898-1900 S. J. Jordon; 1900-1904 J. S. Norton; 1904-07 R. L. Kwie; 1907-12 J. H. Hubbard; 1912-16 J. M. Wallace; 1916-20 Albert Eaton; 1920-24 S. G. Thomas; 1924-28 Gertrude Hartley.

Clerk

1892-94 R. B. Wells; 1894-1900 Geo. W. Wheeler; 1900-1902 G. D. Coder; 1902-04 G. W. Miller; 1904-10 W. B. Harrington; 1910-14 Frank Thompson; 1914-16 Sam H.

Hays; 1916-1918 Lee Ozbin; 1918-20 H. L. Rigsbee; 1920-24 Price Craig; 1924-26 Rex Moore; 1926-28 Frank Thompson.

Surveyor

1892-94 S. B. Robertson; 1894-96 E. A. Williams; 1896-1902 E. B. Ross; 1902-04 Pinkney Ellis; 1904-1918 E. B. Ross; 1918-1928 Fred Ford.

Probate Judge

1892-94 J. D. Ballard; 1894-96 J. R. Baker; 1896-98 H. A. Lamberson; 1898-1900 W. B. Auxier; 1900-1904 Richard a Billups; 1904-07 L. R. Cowan.

County Judge

1907-16 L. R. Shean; 1916-20 Owen F. Renegar; 1920-22 J. L. Jackson; 1922-28 H. C. Hubbard.

Weigher

1910-14 J. H. Hay; 1914-18 Charles L. Blanton; 1918-20 S. E. Kenver; 1920-24 J. H. Caldwell; 1924-26 James D. Wallace.

Assessor

1912-16 W. L. Parker; 1916-20 G. W. Miller; 1920-24 Frank Thompson; 1924-26 G. W. Miller.

Register of Deeds

1892-94 J. M. Wisdom; 1894-96 W. H. Dean; 1896-98 G. H. Grant; 1898-1902 C. F. Murrell; 1902-1907 A. A. Harris

1907-10 R. B. Wells, Jr; 1910-12 Charles Lorenz; 1912-14 Mrs. John Stone; (office consolidated with that of county clerk)

Treasurer

1892-96 J. D. Purcell; 1896-1900 W. H. Dean; 1900-1904 J. M. Armfield; 1904-10 J. J. McCurley; 1910-12 W . H. Dean 1912-16 J. A. Robinson; 1916-20 Ul. L. Pribble; 1920-24 R. G. Burrow; 1924-28 Scott Burson.

Coroner

1892-1902 Richard Earnhart; 1902-1907 William Hibbs; 1907-10 S. Hunnbarger (office discontinued)

Commissioners:

1892-94 F. J. Mitts. J. C. Talmadge, W. H. Mershon 1894-96 J. J. Fast; R. N. Hughes, J. Dale; 1896-98 S . Hunnbarger, Sam Smith; 1898-1900 H. C. Freadaway, M. B. Brown, L. N. Williams; 1900-02 J. C. Eavwin, David Smith, S. M. Darnell; 1902-04 W. H. V. Yeates, David Smith, S. M. Darnell; 1904-07 D. D. Weins, W. H. Bills, J. F. Hinds; 1907-10 F. G. Sappington, H. A. Kenner, J. T. Hinds; 1910-12 F. G. Sappington, N. W. Elston, J. A. Brown; 1912-14 Stuart Hunnbarger, J. L. Long, H. K. Thomas; 1914-16 Virgie Evans, W. N. Elston, E. F. Reeder; 1918-20 R. G. Miller, O. Y. Galloway, W. F. Winningham; 1920-22 F. G. Sappington, W. H. Bills, W. F. Winningham; 1922-24 T. G. Sappington, W. H. Bills, W. C. Keys; 1924-26 T. G. Sappington, E. P. Wilson, W. C. Keys; 1926-28 F. G. Sappington.

APPENDIX II

THE COUNTY'S WAR DEAD

The roll of war dead follows: (1)

(1) Cordell Beacon June 12, 1919

1 - Ernest L. Hull, of Cordell, entrained March 28, 1918 for Camp Travis. He went overseas with the 29th division and killed in the Argonne Sector on October 12, 1918 while detailed as a runner.

2 - Roy Garfield Zoellner of Cordell was killed at St. Michiel Sept. 12, 1918. He was attached to Co. D. 357 Infantry.

3 - W. J. Cone of Cloud Chief volunteered in July 1917. On January 16, 1918 he was killed by an automobile at Camp Codey New Mexico. His body is buried in Washita County.

4- C. E. Young of Dill entrained for Camp Travis Oct. 4, 1917. He went overseas with the 90th Division and was killed by a shell in Sept. 1918.

5 - Bert L. Allen of Cordell went to Camp Travis April 27, 1918. He crossed with the 90th Division and was killed at St. Michiel by a tremor mortar shell on September 13, 1918.

6 - Tula B. Thompson of Dill went down with the Tusconia when it was sunk twelve miles off the coast of Ireland on February 6, 1918.

7 - Ed Higginbathan of Sentinel trained at Camp

Travis and crossed with the 28th Division. He was killed in the battle of Fismes in August 1918.

8 - Ernest V. Wright of Cloud Chief was killed on the Western front August 30, 1918.

9 - Barney Barbee of Colony came home on a furlough and was killed in an automobile accident.

10 - Walter Ed Duke of Port trained at Camp Bowie and crossed with the 36th Division. He was killed in action on the Champagne Sector.

11 - Warren Shepherd of Carnegie was a member of Co. L. 166 Infantry of the Rainbow Division. He was killed in action on July 30, 1918.

12 - Troy Edward Green of Gatebo, entrained for Camp Bowie May 28, 1918. He went overseas with Co. B. 141 Infantry of the 36th Division. He was killed at St. Quentin October 8, 1918.

13 - James. F. Bass of Elk City was killed in action October 10, 1918.

14 - Guy Copeland of Cordell while in training at Camp Bowie was killed by contact with an electric wire. His body was brought to Washita County for burial.

15 - Clint Clark of Dill trained at Camp Travis and went overseas with the 90th Division. He was killed in action.

16 - Clyde Wils Freeman of Port was killed at the battle of Tismes August 18, 1918. He was a member of Co. A. 112 Infantry. 36th Division.

17 - Henry Homberger of Weatherford was killed at St. Michiel September 14, 1918. He was a member of Co. H. 357 Infantry 90th Division.

18 - Foster A. Cavener of Cloud Chief joined the navy April 17, 1917. He was drowned in Key West Harbor September 29, 1918.

19 - Guy H. Barton of Foss died aboard ship enroute to France, October 4, 1918. Buried in France.

20 - B. McBroom of Sentinel died at Camp Dix New Jersey September 26, 1918. He is buried at Port.

21 - John Milton Batchelor of Cordell died at Camp Travis April 27, 1918.

22 - Rudolph Kupha of Canute died at Camp Dix, New Jersey, September 27, 1918. He is buried at Canute.

23 - Pete Christian of Mountain View died at Camp Travis, February 9, 1918. Burial was at Mountain View.

24 - John J. McAtear of Gatebo died at Texas University while taking special mechanical training.

25 - Leo Clarence Lamn of Canute died at Camp Travis July 29, 1918. Burial was at Canute.

26 - B. F. George, a volunteer, died in Camp.

27 - Clint Snider of Braithwaite died at Camp Grant Ill. Sept. 15, 1918. He was buried at Cordell.

28 - Johnnie Bowman of Cloud Chief died at Vanconner Barracks, February 12, 1918. Burial was in California.

29 - John Dennis Risinger of Rocky died at Fort Sam Houston March 26, 1918. Burial was at Rocky.

30 - Estil Liggett of Rocky died at Camp Fremont California October 16, 1918. The body was brought to Rocky for burial.

31 - Ernest L. Burkhart of Colony died at Camp Logon. Burial was at Colony.

32 - Drew Cravens of Cordell died at Weatherford, Oklahoma while serving in I. A. T. C.

33 - Leonard Patterson of Port died at Fort Logang Colorado.

34 - Lieutenant Ben F. Jones of Foss died at Camp Stuart, Va. October 17, 1918. He was a member of the Medical corps.

35 - Wilkins McDade of Foss died at Camp Travis in June 1918. Burial was at Foss.

36 - Lester E. Stone of Rocky died at Camp Bowie in June 1918.

37 - Miss Alice Baker of Mt. View died at Port Riley, Kansas, October 21, 1918, while serving as a Red Cross Nurse. Burial was at Mountain View.

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