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Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame

**Currie Ballard, Bob Burke,
General Thomas P. Stafford,
and Dr. Lewis Stiles**

By Elizabeth M. Baxter

Since 1993 the Oklahoma Historical Society has annually honored up to four individuals, both professional and amateur, in its Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. Recipients are selected on the basis of their contributions to the preservation, collection, interpretation, and dissemination of Oklahoma history. This criteria was first published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 72 (Summer 1994). To date, sixty-three historians have been inducted.

Early honorees included Grant Foreman, Joseph B. Thoburn, Muriel H. Wright, Edward Everett Dale, and Angie Debo. In addition to historians, the award has been bestowed on artist Charles Banks Wilson, Cherokee genealogist Emmet Starr, author John Joseph Mathews, and Apache educator Mildred Imach Cleghorn. The inductees are honored at the Awards Banquet held during the Oklahoma Historical Society's Annual Meeting in April each year. In April 2010 Currie Ballard, Bob Burke, General Thomas P. Stafford, and Dr. Lewis Stiles were inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. The inductees are featured in this issue of *The Chronicles*.

Currie Ballard

Although born in Los Angeles, Currie Ballard's Oklahoma roots run deep. He is a descendent of Wallace and Minerva Willis, African American slaves in Indian Territory who wrote the classic gospel

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Currie Ballard accepts his medal as a new member of the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame at the Oklahoma Historical Society's Annual Meeting in Durant, April 2010 (photo by Terry Zinn).

song “Swing Low Sweet Chariot.” Ballard received his bachelor of arts degree from Langston University. He serves as the assistant secretary of the Oklahoma State Senate and spent twelve years as historian-in-residence at Langston University.

Ballard has been an avid and effective collector of African American history for twenty years. He has served as guest curator for the Oklahoma Historical Society and is primarily responsible for the photographs, film, artifacts, and documents relating to African Americans in Oklahoma that now are in the collections of the OHS. Much of the material in the Oklahoma History Center’s African American exhibit was provided by Ballard. In 2002 Ballard was appointed by former president George W. Bush to a presidential commission to build a museum in Washington, D.C., dedicated to African American history.

Among his many accomplishments are producer, writer, and host of the *Ebony Chronicles* television documentaries for OETA public television in Oklahoma. This outstanding series was awarded a Regional Emmy Award in 1997. Ballard has also appeared on many state and national television programs as an authority on African American history.

One of Ballard’s greatest finds in collecting materials on African American history was his discovery of twenty-nine cans of motion

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picture film dating back to the 1920s. These films illuminate the daily lives of people in some remarkably successful African American communities across Oklahoma. This “find of a lifetime” contained more than four hours of never-before-seen footage.

From growing up in Los Angeles to becoming assistant secretary of the Oklahoma State Senate, Currie Ballard has shown that people’s roots can bring them back to the place of their origin and give them great curiosity about it. For his tireless efforts to preserve and share the heritage of African Americans in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Historical Society names Currie Ballard to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

Bob Burke

Broken Bow-native Bob Burke has authored or co-authored ninety-three non-fiction books since 1985, more books than any other individual living or deceased. The vast majority of those books have been on Oklahoma subjects, particularly Oklahoma people.

Bob Burke, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University School of Law, has been the radio host of the “Babbling Bob Burke Show” on KOMA while working his way through OU, served as secretary of the Department of Economic and Consumer Affairs for Governor David Boren, and has practiced law, all while writing extensively on Oklahoma’s history. He has written on topics ranging from baseball to aviation and from art to religion. His biography of Wiley Post, book on baseball in Oklahoma, and book on the Oklahoma Governor’s Mansion have won the Oklahoma Book Award. His biography of Bryce Harlow received the Outstanding Book Award from the Oklahoma Historical Society. In 2003 Burke was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

Along with a full work schedule and his prolific writing, Burke gives back to the community by serving on the board of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, the Jim Thorpe Association, the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, Red Earth, and the Wiley Post Commission. This dedication to Oklahoma and its people manifests itself in Burke’s writings. Because of this dedication, the Oklahoma Historical Society names Bob Burke to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

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Bob Burke speaking after his induction into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame (photo by Terry Zinn).

Selected Books

- Lyle Boren: Rebel Congressman.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1991.
- With Kenny A. Franks. *Dewey F. Bartlett: The Bartlett Legacy.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1995.
- Like a Prairie Fire: A History of the Assemblies of God in Oklahoma.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God, 1994.
- With Von Russell Creel and Kenny A. Franks. *American Jurist: The Life of Alfred P. Murrah.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1996.
- With Glen D. Johnson and Kenny Franks. *Glen D. Johnson, Sr. Vol. III.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1996.
- With Angela Monson. *Roscoe Dunjee Vol. V: Champion of Civil Rights.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1998.
- With Kenny Franks. *Abe Lemons: Court Magician.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1999.
- With Vicki Miles-LaGrange. *A Passion for Equality: The Life of Jimmy Stewart.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1999.
- With Ralph G. Thompson. *Bryce Harlow: Mr. Integrity.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2000.
- Good Guys Wear White Hats.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2000.
- Push Back the Darkness: The Story of Don Stamps and the Full Life Study Bible.* Springfield, Mo.: Life Publishers International, 2000.
- With Betty Kay Small Crow. *The House Oklahoma Built: A History of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2001.
- With Louise Painter. *Justice Served: The Life of Alma Bell Wilson.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2001.
- Kate Barnard: Oklahoma's Good Angel.* Edmond: University of Central Oklahoma Press, 2001.
- With David L. Russell. *Law & Laughter: the Life of Lee West.* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2002.

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- Oklahoma: The Center of it All*. Encino, Calif.: Cherbo Publishing Group, 2002.
- With Joan Gilmore. *Old Man River: the Life of Ray Ackerman*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2002.
- Art Treasures of the Oklahoma State Capitol*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2003.
- Baseball in Oklahoma City*. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.
- Courage Counts: The Life of Larry Derryberry*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2003.
- In Reverence We Stand: Memories of Phillips University*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2003.
- With Denyvetta Davis. *Ralph Ellison: A Biography*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2003.
- With Barry Epperson. *W. French Anderson: Father of Gene Therapy*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2003.
- Deals, Deals, and More Deals: The Life of John W. Nichols*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2004.
- Friday Night in the Big Town: The Life of Gary England*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2006.
- With Gini Moore Campbell. *Lee Allan Smith: Oklahoma's Best Friend*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2006.
- Wiley Post: From Oklahoma to Eternity*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2006.
- With Von Russell Creel. *Oklahoma Statesman: The Life of David Boren*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2008.
- With Frank Keating. *Art of the Oklahoma State Capitol: The Senate Collection*. Tulsa: Gilcrease Museum, 2010.

General Thomas P. Stafford

General Thomas P. Stafford of Weatherford has used his position as a former astronaut to bring attention to the history of the U.S. space program and its achievements. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he entered the newly established U.S. Air Force upon his graduation in 1952. He became a test pilot and was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to join the second group of astronauts for training.

As a NASA astronaut, he piloted the Gemini VI and commanded Gemini IX, Apollo X, and the Apollo Soyuz Test project. He flew more than 127 types of aircraft and logged 506 hours and 43 minutes in space.

General Stafford's contributions do not end with his heroics in space. His autobiography, *We Have Capture*, emphasizes the influence his Oklahoma origins had on his life as an astronaut. Through the efforts of General Stafford, the Oklahoma History Center is



OHS Board President Jim Waldo, Executive Director Bob Blackburn, and Aviation Historian Bill Moore. General Stafford could not be present, so his friend and fellow historian Bill Moore accepted his award on his behalf (photo by Terry Zinn).

able to display the Gemini VI space capsule. He also donated many other artifacts and materials on display near the capsule.

Finally, in his hometown of Weatherford, General Stafford has built the Stafford Air and Space Museum. The forty thousand-square-foot exhibit space tells the history of flight and the roles that Oklahomans have played in that history. Spacecraft, rockets, and jet liners fill the large space. There is also a Flight Simulation Lab, Apollo Conference Room, Educational Center, interactive exhibits, and a planetarium. This museum exemplifies General Stafford's commitment to sharing the history of flight and the history of Oklahomans in flight.

For his many contributions to the preservation of aviation and aeronautical history in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame is proud to welcome General Thomas P. Stafford.

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Dr. Lewis Stiles addressing the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society (photo by Terry Zinn).

Dr. Lewis Stiles

Dr. Lewis Stiles was raised six miles east of Broken Bow on a ranch on the Mountain Fork River at the site of Old Eagletown in McCurtain County. He met and married Frances Taylor while pursuing his doctor of veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State University. It was the beginning of a partnership in preserving the history of McCurtain County that would last years. After practicing veterinary medicine in Holdenville for sixteen years, he returned to McCurtain County to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1969. It was then that he found his passion for preserving the history of the area, and forty-one years later that passion has not faded.

Dr. Stiles is a charter member of the McCurtain County Historical Society, serving in a variety of capacities. He has served on the board of the Oklahoma Historical Society for eighteen years, during which time he held the offices of president and vice president. While president of the OHS he led an effort to upgrade its historical marker program, replacing many aluminum markers with new, etched granite slabs. Dr. Stiles also serves as a board member of the Museum of the Red River in Idabel and the Forrest Heritage Center

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in Broken Bow. He has owned and operated the Chief Gardner Mansion and Museum for many years, telling the public about the story of Choctaw Chief Jefferson Gardner. This home was also Dr. Stiles's childhood home.

Lewis and Frances helped to establish historical markers honoring Choctaw Chiefs Jefferson Gardner, Peter Pitchlynn, and George Hudson. They hosted the first commemorative Choctaw Trail of Tears Walk in 1972. The walk started in Horatio, Arkansas, and ended at the Gardner Mansion. Dr. Stiles has marked the Choctaw Trail of Tears from the Oklahoma/Arkansas border through McCurtain County to Choctaw County using concrete posts where the trail crossed a county road or highway. He recently put pen to paper to co-author *Bounty of Nature: Fur Traders in Oklahoma*.

Some of the awards he has received in the past include the Distinguished Service Award for Preservation of State and Local History from the Oklahoma Heritage Association and the McCurtain County Distinguished Service Award. It is the pleasure of the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame to now include among these honors induction into the Hall of Fame for his efforts to preserve Choctaw history and the history of McCurtain County.

Alva, Oklahoma: What's in a Name?

by *Donovan Reichenberger**

If you ask a resident of Alva, Oklahoma, who was honored in the naming of the town, you probably will receive one of three answers. Alva was named for Alva Adams, governor of Colorado. It was named for a railroad attorney. It was named for a railroad attorney who later became governor of Colorado.

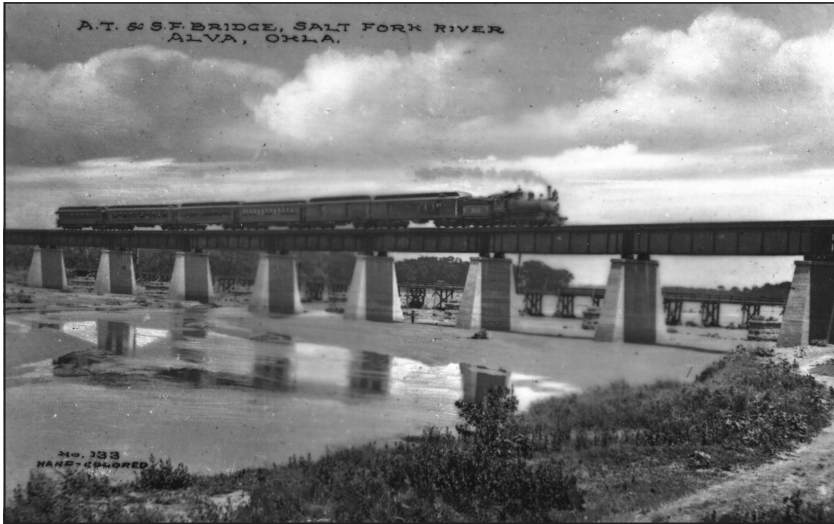
If a town is named for a non-historical figure, it is difficult to verify the accepted folk-wisdom after the first generation has died. However, if the town is named for a historical figure, there are public records that may be used to verify the validity of the accepted folk-wisdom. The purpose of this study is to determine whether Alva was named for the railroad attorney Alva Adams, who later served as governor of Colorado.

Alva was the first railroad stop established by the Southern Kansas Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, when it began building southwest across the western end of the Cherokee Outlet from Kiowa, Kansas, to the Texas Panhandle in 1886-1887. The railroad built cattle pens, a section house, and a telegraph station at the future townsite.¹

Later, as part of the preparations by the national government for the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to homesteaders, the secretary of the interior set aside 320 acres at the railroad stop. These 320 acres were designated and platted as the Alva townsite. Within the 320 acres, the national government reserved one acre for a land office and four acres for a county courthouse. The letter M was used to identify the county and land office's district.²

The first public record offering a namesake for Alva was an opinion piece by W. F. Hatfield, editor and publisher of the *Alva Pioneer*. This tongue-in-cheek item stated, "Thomas A. Edison's middle name is Alva. We are not particularly superstitious, but we always believed that the steady, reliable and yet, unexplained progress of Alva was due to some kind of Mascot, and that must be the 'stuff'."³ Alva was less than six months old on March 9, 1894, and it is doubtful that Hatfield was offering a serious suggestion that the town was named for Edison. Hatfield was probably resorting to the frontier town-boosting hyperbole from a local newspaper editor.

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Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad bridge near Alva (OHS Research Division photo).

The second public record with a suggestion offering a namesake for Alva was an opinion item by Albert H. Andrus, editor and publisher of the *Alva Chronicle*. In his partisan political party zealotry, Andrus wrote, “Alva was named after Alva Adams, ex-governor of Colorado. He was the best governor the state ever had and Alva is the best town in the Territory—both are democratic.”⁴ Andrus, an attorney, arrived in Alva from Colorado and claimed a town lot on September 16, 1893. Again, we have a frontier newspaper editor making a town-boosting statement that cannot be given much credibility. However, this one-inch column piece in a partisan Democratic Party newspaper may be the source for later writers to credit Governor Alva Adams as the individual for whom Alva was named.

Seventeen years later, Fred McCarrell wrote, “There are two versions . . . concerning the origin of the name Alva. One is that there was a cow camp . . . called ‘Alba,’ and the Indians pronounced it Alva, and the corrupted form was later applied to the town . . . The other story is that the town was called Alva after one of the Governors of Colorado.”⁵ Ten years later, when Alva Adams died, an Alva newspaper reporter wrote he was “a banker, prominent Free Mason, a democrat . . .” The reporter also wrote the railroad “had” this station (Alva) named in his honor.⁶ However, there was no organized authority to name or to approve the naming of the station in 1887.

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*Woods County Court-
house in Alva (OHS
Research Division
photo).*



The railroad chose the station's name in the unorganized and unsettled territory.

In the early 1930s George R. Crissman, professor of history at Northwestern State Teachers College in Alva, prepared *A History of Woods County* for the fifth and sixth grade students of the county. Crissman wrote, "When the Panhandle line of the Santa Fe railroad was built through the 'Strip' in 1885-86 [sic], Alva was located as the first town south of the Kansas line. When the company sought a name for the new town, the suggestion was made that it be named Alva in recognition of the services of Alva Adams who was at that time an attorney for the Santa Fe. Later Mr. Adams moved to Colorado and became governor of that state."⁷

George Crissman tried to provide true stories in his book for the school children of Woods County. However, there are three factual errors in his account concerning the naming of Alva. The railroad was not built through the Cherokee Outlet until 1886-1887.⁸ The railroad located a stop, future station, and not a town in 1887.⁹ The

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town was not established until August 1893.¹⁰ In 1886 Alva Adams, a Pueblo merchant, had been living in Colorado for fifteen years and was making his second run for governor of Colorado.¹¹

Beginning in 1900 Charles Newton Gould, professor of geology at the University of Oklahoma, began making annual geological surveys throughout the state. Gould also began gathering information on Oklahoma's place-names during these trips.¹² Gould wrote, "Alva, Woods County, was named for Alva Adams quondam attorney for the Santa Fe railroad, afterward Governor of Colorado."¹³

By the time Gould's book was published in 1933, the first generation of settlers was coming to an end. The twentieth century writers McCarrell, Crissman, and Gould are identifying Alva Adams, governor of Colorado, as the man being honored by the Santa Fe railroad in the naming of Alva. The first time Alva Adams was identified as an attorney was in his obituary when the writer referred to him as being "widely known in the West as an attorney and Democratic politician."¹⁴ Then, Crissman and Gould identified Adams as an attorney for the railroad in their books that were published in the early 1930s.

The next three generations of authors to publish books on Oklahoma place-names have repeated the statements of Crissman and Gould. All of them identify Alva Adams as an attorney for the Santa Fe railroad who later became governor of Colorado and as the man for whom Alva was named.¹⁵ Apparently, none of these authors examined the life of Governor Alva Adams.

Two questions must be answered in the affirmative if we are to accept the claim that Alva was named for a railroad attorney who later served as governor of Colorado. First, was Alva Adams an attorney? Second, was Alva Adams associated with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in 1886-1887 or earlier?

The governor is always identified as a businessman in Colorado historical and biographical publications. There is never a reference to him as a lawyer or having a law practice.

Alva Adams was born in Wisconsin in 1850 and moved to Colorado in 1871 at the age of twenty-one. In Wisconsin he received a rudimentary country school education in reading, writing, and arithmetic. His first job in Colorado was hauling railroad ties for the southward construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Denver to Colorado Springs. In Colorado Springs he was employed by C. W. Sandborn to operate a small hardware and lumber store. He borrowed the money and purchased the store from Sandborn within two months. The following year, 1872, he took a

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partner who operated the Colorado Springs store, while Adams established a branch store in Pueblo. After selling his interest in the Colorado Springs store to his partner, Adams prospered as a hardware and lumber merchant in Pueblo. He opened three branch stores between 1873 and 1876. After the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad opened the San Juan Valley, Adams established five additional stores between 1876 and 1882. By the mid-1880s, Adams was a prosperous hardware and lumber retailer.¹⁶

John Adams, Alva's father, was involved in Wisconsin politics, and Alva quickly entered Colorado politics.¹⁷ He was elected a trustee for South Pueblo in 1873 and was elected at the age of twenty-six to the first state legislature in 1876. He served one term and returned to his extensive business enterprise. He was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor in 1884. Judge Kerr of Pueblo seconded Adams's 1884 nomination and referred to Adams as a "miner, legislator, merchant, and citizen." Adams told the convention he accepted the nomination as a businessman.¹⁸ In his 1886 nomination's acceptance speech, Alva told the delegates "he had neither the time nor money to campaign so it was up to the party to take care of the campaign."¹⁹ However, in 1886 the Colorado Republican Party was split, and Alva won the election for governor.

In 1889 after completing his term as governor, Adams returned to Pueblo and devoted his attention to the further development of his hardware and lumber business. Adams also became a Pueblo banker between his first and second terms. He served as president of the Pueblo Savings and Trust.²⁰ However, he remained actively involved in Colorado's Democratic Party, winning the gubernatorial races in 1896 and 1904.

Was Governor Alva Adams an attorney? There is no record of Alva Adams being admitted to the bar in Kansas or Colorado. The Supreme Court records in Topeka, Kansas, home of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, do not list an Alva Adams. Colorado has no record of Governor Adams being a member of the Colorado Bar. However, the governor's son Alva B. Adams graduated from Columbia Law School in 1889 and was admitted to the Colorado Bar on August 2, 1899.²¹

Governor Adams did not have a law firm waiting for his son. Alva B. Adams opened his own law office and later formed a partnership with another Pueblo attorney George B. Gast.²² In the *Bench and Bar*, Alva B. Adams is the only Pueblo attorney named Adams.²³

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This publication also included portraits of Colorado attorneys. Again, Alva B. Adams is the only listing.²⁴

Governor Adams was always identified as a good businessman. He always referred to himself as a businessman. The supreme courts of Kansas and Colorado do not list an attorney named Alva Adams. One must accept the obvious, Governor Adams was not an attorney who worked for the Santa Fe Railroad and later served as governor of Colorado. Consequently, George Crissman and Charles Gould must have used Albert Andrus's *Alva Chronicle* as their source. And it was not a reliable source.

Was Alva Adams associated with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in 1886-1887 or earlier? A survey of historical works concerning the Santa Fe does not show an Alva Adams connection with the railroad.²⁵ In his history of the Santa Fe, James Marshall identifies more than two hundred place-names chosen by the railroad as it expanded to the Pacific coast and the Gulf of Mexico. Stations (future townsites) were named for company officers, employees, employee family members, and towns located elsewhere. The entry for Alva is "Alva, Okla. Attorney." The pattern adopted in naming stations for women used their first name. However, the railroad used the surname for stations when using men's names. Two other stations named for attorneys used their last names. It is very improbable that the railroad would have departed from its standard pattern only when it named the Alva station.²⁶

Furthermore, Alva Adam's Colorado endeavors would not have left him with time for the Santa Fe. He was building a profitable hardware and lumber business. He also was the Democratic Party's candidate for governor in 1884 and 1886. Adams took the oath of office as Colorado's governor the same month the Alva station was established, January 1887.²⁷

The newly installed governor was thirty-seven years old. He was not a well-known figure outside of Colorado. The Santa Fe did not name stations for politicians, and there is no reason to believe it would have named a station for the newly elected governor.

Albert Andrus, publisher of an Alva newspaper, printed a partisan news article in 1894 that became the source of the myth that Alva was named for the Colorado businessman/politician Alva Adams. Then, writers interested in the origin of place-names began to assert that Adams was an attorney for the railroad that originated and named the townsite. The myth has been perpetuated in all place-name publications for the last seventy-five years.

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Unfortunately, Alva Adams was not an attorney or associated with the railroad. Consequently, the individual who was honored by the railroad in the naming of Alva is unknown. It is better to acknowledge this fact than to continue perpetuating the myth that Alva was named for a governor of Colorado.

ENDNOTES

* Donovan Reichenberger is a retired professor of history at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. He is also author of "Wings Over Waynoka," an article found in the Summer 1987 issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

¹ A. E. Pardee letter to editor, *Alva Record*, November 4, 1926, 5.

² James D. Richardson, comp., *Compilations of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, 11 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1912), 8: 5842.

³ *Alva Pioneer*, March 9, 1894, 1.

⁴ *Alva Chronicle*, April 26, 1895, 4.

⁵ Fred McCarrell, "History and the Names of Oklahoma County Seats," *Progress: A Magazine of Education* 1, nos. 8-9, (May and June 1912): 232.

⁶ *Alva Record*, November 10, 1922, 1.

⁷ George Crissman, *History of Woods County Oklahoma* (n.p., n.d.), 97.

⁸ *Kiowa Herald*, November 25, 1886, 4.

⁹ *Kiowa Herald-Ear*, February 10, 1887, 1; *Kiowa Herald-Ear*, February 17, 1887, 1.

¹⁰ Richardson, comp., *Compilations*, 8: 5842.

¹¹ Allen Johnson, ed., *Dictionary of American Biography*, 20 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 1928), 1: 36, 37.

¹² Charles N. Gould, *Oklahoma Place Names* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1933), 13.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 59.

¹⁴ *New York Times*, November 2, 1922, 19.

¹⁵ Kent Ruth, Oklahoma: *A Guide to the Sooner State* (St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press, 1976), 278-79; Kent Ruth, *Oklahoma Travel Book* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997), 34; Burnis Argo and Kent Ruth, *Oklahoma: Historical Tour Guide* (Carpentersville, Ill.: Crossroads Communications, 1992), 200; Francis L. and Roberta Fugate, *Roadside History of Oklahoma* (Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing, 1991), 243. All of these books have the same error. They identify Alva B. Adams, Governor Adams's son who was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1899, as the Santa Fe attorney being honored. George Shirk, *Oklahoma Place Names* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965), 8.

¹⁶ Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, 4 vols. (Chicago: Blakely Printing, 1889-1895), 3: 51-52; Harold E. Rathgeber, "The Public Career of Alva Adams" (master's thesis, University of Denver, 1954), 5.

¹⁷ Rathgeber, 3.

¹⁸ Tim Zwink and Donovan Reichenberger, *Ranchlands to Railroads: An Illustrated Sketch of "M" County's Pre-Territorial History* (Alva, Okla.: Alva Centennial Commission, 1986), n.p.

¹⁹ Hall, 3: 50.

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²⁰ James H. Baker and LeRoy Hafen, *History of Colorado*, 5 vols. (Denver: Linderman Co., 1927), 4: 438.

²¹ Colorado Supreme Court Attorney Registration Office letter to the author, dated October 6, 1999.

²² Baker and Hafen, *History*, 4: 417.

²³ George E. Lewis and D. F. Stackelbeck, *Bench and Bar of Colorado* (Denver: Bench and Bar Publishing Co., 1917), 211.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 88.

²⁵ Glenn D. Bradley, *The Story of the Santa Fe* (Boston: Gorham Press, 1920); Keith L. Bryant, Jr., *History of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974); James Marshall, *Santa Fe: The Railroad that Built an Empire* (New York: Random House, 1945); L. L. Waters, *Steel Trails to Santa Fe* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1950).

²⁶ Marshall, 353-57.

²⁷ Hall, 3: 50.

Oklahoma Newspaper Project

By Angela Jerome

The Oklahoma Historical Society, in partnership with the University of North Texas and the Oklahoma Press Association, plan to digitize and make available one hundred thousand newspaper pages to the National Digital Newspaper Program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. The titles selected will reflect the state's political, cultural, and economic history; span Oklahoma regionally; and cover the mid-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century.

Tulsa Star [LCCN: sn93050699]

The *Tulsa Star* came into being in 1912 as the *Muskogee Star* [LCCN: sn83025068]. The *Star* was a staunchly Democratic African American paper in an era when Republican ideals reigned over black communities. It began life as a weekly transitioning to a daily at some point after editor and publisher Andrew Jackson Smitherman moved the paper to Tulsa in 1913. Also known as the *Tulsa Daily Star*, the paper championed African American causes, promoting progress and stability within Tulsa's black community until its dramatic and untimely demise following the race riot of May 31, 1921.

Born in 1885, Smitherman began his newspaper career in 1908 as the traveling agent and advertising manager for William Henry Twine's *Muskogee Cimeter* [LCCN: sn83025060]. A decidedly Republican newspaper, the *Cimeter* concentrated on issues of race and politics for the advancement of the black community. After four years of working for Twine, Smitherman established the *Muskogee Star*, putting his own mark on the *Cimeter's* efforts to improve conditions for African Americans.

At the time of the race riot, approximately eleven thousand African Americans lived in Tulsa. They owned and operated more than 190 businesses in north Tulsa, a part of town known as "Black Wall Street." It was in this flourishing neighborhood that Smitherman had moved the *Muskogee Star* in 1913. The new *Tulsa Star* pro-

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vided leadership and influence in shaping Tulsa's black community. Smitherman advocated self-reliance and urged resistance to the mob violence and lynchings that were taking place throughout the United States. The *Star* also campaigned against perceived wrongdoings of the white Republican city administration and repeatedly criticized its actions toward the African American community.

This distrust between city officials and the preeminent black voice in the community revealed the volatile mood in Tulsa leading up to the race riot. On May 31, 1921, white mobs destroyed thirty-five blocks of north Tulsa, including Smitherman's residence and the offices of the *Star*. Smitherman was forced to flee Tulsa where whites blamed him for inciting the riot. Smitherman moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, and in 1925 to Buffalo, New York, where he worked for various African American newspapers. In 1932 Smitherman started the *Buffalo Star* [LCCN: sn93063823], later named the *Empire Star* [LCCN: sn88074352], and continued his mission until his death in June 1961 at which time the paper ceased publication.

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Larry O'Dell, "Protecting His Race: A.J. Smitherman and the *Tulsa Star*." *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 80, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 302-13.

Beaver Herald [LCCN: sn93066071]

The fluidity and dynamism of the Oklahoma Territory is mirrored by the history of the *Beaver Herald*, the state's oldest weekly newspaper. The town of Beaver is located in an area once known as the Beaver Strip, No Man's Land, or Cimarron Territory. The paper was originally founded in 1887 as the *Territorial Advocate* [LCCN: sn93066069] by two men known only as Estes and Eldridge, just seven years after the township of Beaver had been established. Given the town's location in No Man's Land, the *Advocate* was notable for being the only newspaper published within the boundaries of the United States not subject to state or local laws. George F. Payne and Elmer E. Brown purchased the *Advocate* the

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very same year. By this time, the population of Beaver had "swelled" to two hundred, making it the largest community in No Man's Land. In 1892, five years after Payne and Brown had acquired the *Advocate*, the newspaper again changed hands. The new owner, Joseph C. Hodge, immediately rechristened the paper the *Beaver Advocate* [LCCN: sn93066070]. Three years later, sisters Lily and Dolly Wright (whose father was the county attorney Charles R. Wright) bought the paper. The name was again changed, and on January 31, 1895, the first issue of the *Beaver Herald* was published. The sisters later decided to resume publication of the *Herald* using the *Advocate's* volume number.

In the spring of 1896 Wilbert I. Drummond and his father, Isaac S. Drummond, purchased the *Herald*. The paper forthrightly announced its Republican leanings but with the added assurance that it was not "radical enough to scratch all the Democrats and Populists off the subscription list." The Drummonds ran the paper for two years before selling it to former county superintendent, Noah Daves, in February 1898. After eleven months, Daves sold the paper to another son of Isaac S. Drummond. Francis S. Drummond's stewardship of the paper was brief, for he sold the *Herald* back to Daves after only four months on April 13, 1899. Daves added Maude O. Thomas as associate editor on August 9, 1900. Two years later on February 1, 1902, Thomas bought the paper from Daves.

The *Herald* finally obtained a measure of stability under Thomas's tenure. Over the next twenty-one years the *Herald* would double its size from four to eight pages. In July 1923 Thomas concluded her career as the longest-serving editor and sold the paper to A. L. Kimball, owner of the *Herald's* competitor the *Democrat* [LCCN: sn93066074]. On July 26, 1923, the *Beaver Herald* published its final issue. Kimball merged the two papers into one, initially calling it the *Beaver Herald and Democrat* [LCCN: sn93066075], before settling on the paper's current title, *Herald-Democrat* [LCCN: sn86063912] in 1924.

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