

Major Andrew Drumm

Cowman, Businessman, and Visionary

*By Bonnie Haas and Joyce J. Bender**

By the turn of the twentieth century, Andrew Drumm (1828–1919), owner of the U Ranch in Oklahoma Territory from 1874 to 1891, had become one of the nation's most successful businessmen. The diversity in Drumm's life suggests the source of his success. Never content with merely basking in his achievements, he regularly added new business ventures to existing ones. His business interests, totaling nearly \$2 million by the time of his death, spread over much of the continent and drew from industries

as diverse as slaughter houses and banking. Respected by prominent bankers, stock brokers, Native Americans, and cowboys alike, Drumm combined a pioneer spirit of adventure with a Puritan work ethic. A strict taskmaster, he expected employees and debtors to match his stamina and work habits. However, his most respected legacy, the Drumm Institute, a home for indigent and orphaned boys, reveals the depth of his compassion.

Born in 1828 to Samuel and Susan Rickner Drumm in Muskingum County, Ohio, Drumm learned to work hard at a young age. A farm family with eleven children required every member to do his part. His Pennsylvanian mother and Virginian father had left their homes in search of a better life. They instilled their love of adventure, perseverance, and respect for knowledge in their children. Perhaps in accordance with their wishes, Drumm attended a college in Delaware, Ohio, and a business school in Cincinnati as a young man, but his devotion to education extended far beyond formal schooling. He continued to read voraciously his entire life and to observe and learn from everyone around him.¹

In 1849 President James K. Polk's announcement of the discovery of gold in California sparked Drumm's sense of adventure. He was only twenty years old, but his parents granted him permission to travel to California if he promised to return for his twenty-first birthday.² The trip to San Francisco was a challenging one. Drumm traveled by boat from New York to Chagress, Panama. From there, he walked and rode mules across the narrow country, hiring natives to pack his baggage to the city of Panama on the western isthmus.³ He planned to catch a steamer headed for San Francisco and arrive ahead of similar gold-hungry prospectors making the long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope. Although he did arrive in Panama City in record time, once there he found throngs of adventurers already clamoring for every available space on a northbound ship. Drumm waited twenty-seven days before successfully obtaining a ticket. Also waiting in the crowd was Harriet Ecker, bride-to-be of San Francisco's surveyor, William H. Eddy. Although Drumm was unable to obtain passage as quickly as he wished, not reaching San Francisco until April 14, 1850 on the *Tennessee*, he must have impressed Ecker, who arrived before him. A street named Drumm first appears on a map Eddy presented to the senators and representatives from California on December 31, 1849.⁴ The uncommon spelling of Drumm and the knowledge of Harriet Ecker's presence in Panama City at the same time as Drumm suggest that the chivalrous Drumm met and aided the stranded girl.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Drumm spent thirteen months in the gold fields of California before honoring his promise to return home for his twenty-first birthday. He again traveled home via the Isthmus of Panama, then took a ship to New Orleans. Once at home, he spent a few months with his family, but adventure called again, and in 1853 he returned to California in an immigrant wagon train traveling west over the Old Meeker Trail.⁵ Four months later, he arrived in El Dorado County, California, where he spent two years mining for gold. However, disaster struck in 1855 when a cave-in injured him and covered the gold vein.⁶

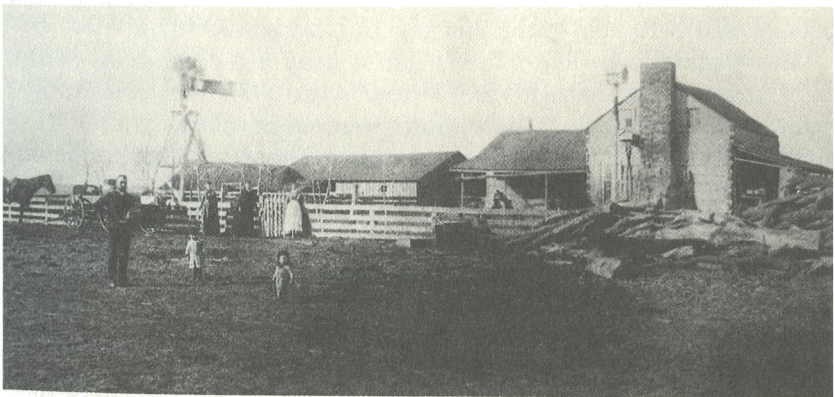
Successful people frequently turn tragedy into opportunity, and Drumm was no exception. After his accident, he began ranching in the San Joaquin Valley on public lands near Tulare Lake. That was his first partnership with a wealthy landlord, the United States government, but it became a lucrative one that Drumm continued in six western states.⁷ Drumm's California gold mine would derive from raising cattle and hogs instead of gold. His business education and farming background made success there more attainable. Providing food for the miners yielded a substantial profit. The growing San Francisco population appreciated the convenience of Drumm's nearby herd, and the valley became known as Drumm's Valley.⁸ When livestock had depleted the grasses on public lands, he drove cattle herds of up to 2,500 to farming districts in the Sacramento Valley, allowing them to feed on barley.

To provide variety for the growing market, Drumm added hogs to his existing cattle herd. Sometimes he fattened them on acorns; other times he drove them to nearby districts for barley grazing. One season Drumm organized a hog drive, perhaps the only 200-mile drive ever for 2,500 squealing hogs. He soon became the largest hog producer in California.⁹

His predilection for adventure and his "sixth sense for making money" led Andrew Drumm to the meat-packing industry in San Francisco. By 1869 he helped organize Willoughby Brothers and Drumm, one of San Francisco's pioneer meat-packing companies.¹⁰ The name Drumm might have become synonymous with those of Swift or Armour had he chosen to concentrate solely on meat production. Always alert to new opportunity, however, Drumm already anticipated new avenues for profit. As soon as he had sufficient capital, he began a finance business for other ranchers, a practice he continued for the remainder of his life and one which contributed greatly to his wealth.

In California he learned to respect and negotiate with diverse cultures: the Chinese who populated much of the San Francisco wharf area near the slaughter houses and packing plants and the Native Americans employed on his ranch. That knowledge proved priceless later when he encountered Indians in the Cherokee Outlet. In a 1917 interview with a reporter from the *Kansas City Star*, Drumm explained how his knowledge of Indian culture and customs helped him overcome fear. Once when Drumm was with a group of settlers terrorized by Indians, most were running away. Drumm explained that the Indians had not hurt anyone but had only acted as though they might. When three Indians in full attire approached him and a younger man, Drumm persuaded the youth not to run but to face the Indians and feign bravado. Experience had taught him to wait for the Indian to speak, because “If you make him say the first word, you weaken him.” After he faced the three Indians and refused to act alarmed or to speak, one Indian said to him, “Huh! You’ve seen Indians before,” and they rode away without harming Drumm or his companion.¹¹ While his words may reflect exaggeration typical of his years, no one doubts the difficulty settlers experienced when outnumbered by Indians.

Maintaining a balance between respect for others and his own somewhat aggressive self-assurance suggests one clue to Drumm’s success. On his ninety-first birthday he said to a reporter, “My experience has taught me that a man must always stand up for his



These buildings served as the headquarters of the 150,000-acre U Ranch founded in the Cherokee Outlet by Andrew Drumm and A. J. Snider in 1870 (Courtesy Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries).

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

rights." When asked if he ever had to use physical force or a gun to maintain his rights, Drumm laughed and answered, "No, I generally managed to talk my way through."¹²

In 1870 Drumm returned to Ohio to enjoy a brief reunion with his close-knit family. He had left Ohio penniless at twenty years of age; he returned a rich man at age forty-two. Neither his adventures nor his successes ever made Drumm forget his family.¹³ He was soon ready for new challenges.

In 1870 Texas cattlemen discovered a fortune awaited those who drove their cattle north. From 1866 to 1884 nearly 10 million head of cattle moved up the trails from Texas.¹⁴ Eager to join those making profits, Drumm and his brother Milton traveled to Texas. They purchased cattle and drove them up to Sumner County near Caldwell, Kansas, and doubled their investment. Although Milton left after one trip, Drumm continued driving cattle from Texas to graze on public lands in Kansas until he found an even greater profit opportunity in the Cherokee Outlet.¹⁵

Only one degree wide and extending to the 100th Meridian, the Cherokee Outlet was one of the last areas of Oklahoma Territory to be settled. Congress had designated it as a hunting ground for the Cherokees. By law, the Cherokees could not settle there.¹⁶ Because no one actually inhabited the land, Kansas cowmen began covertly grazing their cattle herds just over the border. Impressed by the tall buffalo and bluestem grasses and cognizant of the profits they could yield, Drumm moved all his ranching to the Outlet in 1874. He formed a partnership with A. J. Snider, and they established what became the U Ranch, encompassing 150,000 acres.¹⁷

They located the main ranch house near the confluence of the Salt Fork and Medicine Rivers. Traces of the old U Ranch buildings remain today and attest to Drumm's wisdom in selecting a building site. The proximity to the two rivers makes the area subject to flooding; however, Roland Meyer, the current farm operator, reports that although heavy rains frequently flood surrounding fields, the spot where the ranch buildings stood remains dry.¹⁸ The vast ranch required Drumm and his cowboys to be away from the ranch house frequently on overnight rides, and they slept in dugouts located throughout the ranch. By the late 1870s Drumm and Snider owned 40,000 cattle, sometimes selling 4,500 head at one time.¹⁹ In November, 1886, the Texas Land and Cattle Company, a Scottish corporation, sold all of its cattle and leased its 300,000-acre range called the T-5, to Drumm and Snider.²⁰ They immediately began "rebuilding the south line of the T-5 range" at a cost of \$3,000.²¹

Much of Drumm's success derived from his ability to hire trustworthy and competent employees. By 1870 Drumm himself was already involved in banking, the stock commission, and civic improvements such as procuring a railroad. The first foreman of the U Ranch was Jack Crewdson, and the range boss and manager was Abner T. Wilson, both extremely capable men who remained on the ranch many years.²² Another individual Drumm employed was Dave Thomas, a small rancher from near Hennessey who had borrowed money from Drumm. Thomas was in charge of Drumm's cattle in the last big roundup before the arrival of the railroad in Kiowa, Kansas, made the large roundups less necessary.²³

Most employees viewed Drumm as fair-minded; however, some disgruntled cowboys complained that he rousted them up before dawn, worked them hard all day, and did not feed them very well. Drumm is reported to have said that if he fed his men too well, they became independent and were less apt to perform well.²⁴

While other ranchers encroached on Cherokee lands surreptitiously, Drumm's innate sense of fair play led him voluntarily to pay a tax to the Cherokees as early as 1874. He said, "I think I was the first one to pay the tax. I paid 40 cents for cows and 25 cents for cattle two years old and nothing for the calves."²⁵ In 1878 the Department of the Interior and Senate Judiciary Committee officially confirmed the right of Indians to collect the taxes. By 1879 about twenty-five ranchers were paying taxes on about 20,000 cattle.²⁶

Soon Outlet ranchers began building fences, providing an ironic twist to the typical rancher-farmer fence conflict. Fences provided a cost-cutting advantage for Outlet ranchers. Fences eliminated the necessity of large spring roundups to separate herds, made theft more difficult for would-be rustlers, and helped keep healthy herds from infected ones. Fences also discouraged farmers from moving into the area. Always alert to increasing profit, Drumm was one of the first ranchers to fence his lands. He used an inexpensive barbed wire developed in 1873 by Joseph Farwell Glidden, an Illinois farmer. Drumm enclosed 250 acres with three wires on cedar posts cut from the ranch.²⁷ Fencing the land placed the Outlet ranchers in conflict with Kansans who were known to remove timber from the Outlet and who wanted to move their cattle back and forth without paying the taxes. In May, 1882, the Department of Interior intervened in response to a complaint by Kansan W. W. Woods that Drumm had fenced land for which Woods had paid taxes to the Cherokees. Never one to given in without a fight, Drumm fought an order to remove his fences.²⁸ Adept at diplomacy as well as force,

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Drumm had the order suspended until a commissioner could be appointed by the secretary of the interior to investigate the charges. In the meantime, he wrote Chief Dennis Bushyhead and implored him to continue the lease.²⁹ In the end, the fences remained and the lease continued.

Outlet ranchers realized they must unite to protect their interests and to defend themselves. As usual, Drumm was one of the first to act, and he lent his leadership and shrewd business sense to the

organization and operation of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association. In 1882 Drumm and Benjamin S. Miller, another Outlet rancher, requested a lease agreement. Cattlemen met in Caldwell, Kansas, in March, 1883, to form the association, hoping to improve common problems in leasing with the Indians. The association elected Drumm a director and agreed to pay the Cherokee Nation \$100,000 in silver for a five-year lease.³⁰

Although affectionately referred to as Major, Andrew Drumm never faced any enemy in war. However, like most pioneers, Drumm faced a hostile enemy in nature. On a November morning in 1885, a giant grass fire began on the state line near the Salt Fork River and spread over a large area including Lement's,



The memorial erected by Drumm's widow to commemorate his accomplishments stands northeast of Cherokee, Oklahoma (Courtesy the authors unless noted).

Streeter's, and Drumm's ranges.³¹ Although the Drumm ranch lost no buildings, the damage to herds and grazing lands was costly. Ranchers also faced the danger of predatory animals. In November, 1884, the *Kiowa Herald* reported that Drumm blamed wolves for the loss of one-third of his calf crop. Never one to react passively

when his business encountered danger, Drumm equipped his line riders with strychnine which they used to slaughter more than 200 wolves.³² Likewise, Drumm's keen business sense seemed to protect him when others suffered heavy losses. In the winter of 1884–1885 snow continued from November through April. Most ranchers had stocked heavily and lost 50 to 75 percent of their herds. Drumm, on the other hand, had changed from young cows to aged steers, so he wintered without a loss.³³

Keenly knowledgeable of the cattle industry, Drumm not only produced the best beef, he learned to make a substantial profit. In his book, *When Kansas Was Young*, author T. A. McNeal called Drumm "possibly the best judge of cattle among the men of the range."³⁴ Drumm worked to improve beef quality by importing short-horns from Ohio to breed with Texas longhorns.³⁵ He found the Ohio cattle less hardy but when bred with sturdy longhorns, their survival rate improved. He also learned that a greater profit came from fattening steers, not raising calves. In 1884 Drumm sold his last 1,400 cows to Bugbee Nelson Cattle Company.³⁶ After 1884 his ranches held only steers.

In spite of successful years of ranching in the Cherokee Outlet, conditions began to change. For several years Eastern newspapers had publicized the public lands of the Cherokee Outlet, and by 1880 David L. Payne's boomers had begun invading the Outlet. In his newspaper, *Oklahoma War Chief*, Payne accused Drumm and other wealthy association leaders of bribing federal officials and Indian representatives.³⁷ The charges came to President Grover Cleveland's attention, and on December 19, 1884, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs began investigating lease agreements. Drumm testified before the committee on January 8, 1885, that he paid two and one-half cents per acre per year on 150,000 acres to the association, and the cattlemen's group then paid the Cherokees.³⁸ In spite of the efforts of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association, in 1889 President Benjamin Harrison obtained title to the Outlet for the United States by paying the Cherokee Nation \$8,595,736.12, or about \$1.40 per acre.³⁹ The purchase allowed the government to open the Cherokee Outlet to settlers in 1893. In a speech in 1919, Meade L. McClure said, "This large body of land occupied by cattle ranches has in twenty-five years been turned into cultivated and well-improved farms. . . . Many farms on what was the old "U" Ranch are now valued at \$100 per acre."⁴⁰ In 1999, more than a century after Drumm fenced the U Ranch, the land is conservatively valued at more than \$1,000 per acre.⁴¹

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

After the government ordered the ranchers' removal from Indian Territory, Drumm's business acumen again prevailed, saving him from financial disaster. He and Snider leased land further south in Oklahoma Territory, enabling them to retain the cattle until the market stabilized.⁴²

Even before that chapter of his life closed, Drumm had begun other ventures to expand his fortune. In 1884 he became one of the charter members of the New Kiowa Town Site Company and acted as president and director. Each of the charter members paid \$25,000 per year before the town company received its charter.⁴³ The town company enabled town leaders to bring the railroad to Kiowa and provide a closer shipping point for cattlemen from Kansas and the Cherokee Outlet. Cattlemen had always taken their cattle to Caldwell. Although he spent most of his time in Kansas City by 1884, Drumm continued to operate the ranch in the Cherokee Outlet and understood the convenience and profit margin involved in having a railroad nearby. In addition to cost and convenience, the railroad provided other benefits. In 1884 Spanish fever plagued stock yards in Chicago, Kansas City, and Manhattan, Kansas. Area cattlemen anxiously awaited the Southern Kansas Railroad to Kiowa because "no through cattle would be shipped there, thus eliminating problems of coming in contact with fever."⁴⁴ On August 2, 1884, when the first trainload of cattle left Kiowa, Drumm's cattle occupied forty cars.⁴⁵

When the Bank of Kiowa organized in 1884, Drumm became its president even though he spent most of his time in Kansas City. He remained president until his death in 1919. Just as he had on his ranch, Drumm chose stable, trustworthy employees, a fact that enabled him to pursue other business ventures. One of those employees, the bank's first assistant cashier, M. L. McClure, later followed Drumm to Kansas City and became chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City until his death on December 5, 1934.⁴⁶

When Andrew Drumm first went to Kansas City in 1881, he expanded his wealth as he had elsewhere. By 1884 he spent most of his time engaged in the livestock commission and finance businesses. In 1893 Drumm organized the Drumm Flato Commission Company, a Missouri corporation with paid capital of \$100,000. By 1919 the company had \$500,000 capital and \$100,000 surplus and had branched from its beginnings at the Kansas City Stock Yards to include the Union Stock Yard in Chicago and the National Stock Yards in East St. Louis. In 1902 Drumm purchased most of the

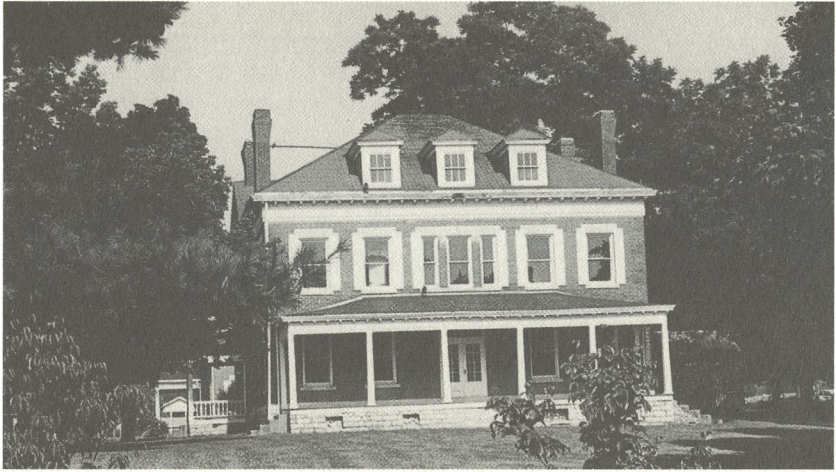


Flowers from well-wishers surrounded Drumm on his ninetieth birthday.

stock in the company and changed its name to Drumm Commission Company.⁴⁷

Drumm's banking interests also expanded to include Citizens Bank of Harper, the Stock Exchange Bank of Caldwell, and the American National Bank of Kansas City. Drumm eventually sold the Caldwell and Harper banks. Drumm was named president of the American National Bank of Kansas City for one year when it was in financial difficulty. Just before his death in 1919, Drumm was the largest payer of individual taxes in Kansas City.⁴⁸

In 1886 Andrew Drumm made two major adjustments in his life when he married and moved permanently to Kansas City. His wife, the former Cordelia Green, was a beautiful socialite from Liberty, Missouri, graduate of a "finishing school," talented in music, and appreciative of the arts. She brought a new dimension to Drumm's life. He became interested in the arts and an active participant in society. First living in hotels, the couple later bought a beautiful home at 720 East Armour Boulevard; however, they wintered in California, Texas, Florida, and New York City. In 1900 the couple traveled eight months in Europe, Egypt, and the Holy Land.⁴⁹



The Swinney House sits at the east entrance of Drumm Institute near Independence, Missouri. The property also includes the Andrew Drumm High School, opposite.

Cordelia lived eleven years after Drumm's death, but assumed a more quiet life. In his honor, she planned a memorial to be located where his beef and banking interest began on the banks of the Medicine River. Although she lived to realize the memorial's completion, she died before the elaborate and moving dedication ceremony. In June, 1932, more than 2,000 people, many of them traveling hundreds of miles, honored Andrew Drumm by witnessing the unveiling of the sandstone monument, which reads: "To mark the old headquarters of the U Ranch established 1870 by Major Andrew Drumm. Comprising 150,999 acres Indian lands in Cherokee Strip, Indian Territory. This memorial erected by Mrs. Cordelia Drumm as a tribute to the pioneer spirit of her husband."⁵⁰

In spite of his new interests, a part of Andrew Drumm remained the cowman. He had operated ranches in Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Missouri, New Mexico, and Arizona. For thirty years he attended annual conventions of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association, usually in Fort Worth or San Antonio. Continuing in the livestock business for sixty-five years, "his experience is believed never to have been equaled by that of any other man, and before his death he was entitled to be called the greatest living cattleman."⁵¹

ANDREW DRUMM

Until his death, Drumm continued to work and, apart from travels with his wife, allowed little time for recreation. Even horseback riding, which he considered a pleasure, was used strictly for business. He continued riding through the yards until he was ninety when he said, "I've found I have to pet myself a little bit. I don't dare undertake the things I used to. Now this winter I'm not riding a horse out through the yards every day."⁵² One activity he permitted himself was poker, and he frequently left his office in the Kansas City Board of Trade, caught a streetcar, and rode to the Kansas City Club for a round of poker before going home to dinner. Author T. A. McNeal said, "The game was a pastime. He was counted one of the most expert poker players among the men of the range, but he did not sit in for purpose of gain, and was only a trifle less joyous perhaps as a loser than as a winner."⁵³

Drumm's work ethic might be considered typical American Puritan, and he remained a strong supporter of other American ideals as well. Impressed with the philanthropy of the P. D. Armour Institute in Chicago, Drumm made several visits to Girard College at the Philly and McDonough Institute at Baltimore. As Drumm grew older, he became more of a philanthropist himself. He contributed great sums to the American war effort in World War I. He gave



THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

\$16,666 to Red Cross War Funds in 1917 and \$5,000 in 1918 and \$8,000 to the United War Fund in 1918. He also gave \$5,000 to Mercy Hospital. He supported the war with Germany as “being the only way to keep our liberties and have lasting peace.”⁵⁴ Just as he had collected from other ranchers to pay Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association debts to the Indians years earlier, he campaigned for liberty bonds and for the Red Cross in the Kansas City stock yards during World War I in spite of his advanced age.

In addition, Drumm loaned \$8–12 million annually through the Drumm Commission Company. About Drumm’s generosity, Meade McClure said, “If any man went broke in the cattle business, as long



Longtime caretakers of Major Andrew Drumm’s legacy, George and Frances Berkemeier, now have a building named for them at the Drumm Institute.

as he showed that he was honest and had ability, Major Drumm assisted him to regain his feet.”⁵⁵

In spite of his business success, his integrity, and his adventurous life, Drumm’s greatest contribution came after his death. A few years before he died, Drumm had accidentally wandered onto a street in Kansas City where he observed many young homeless boys scrambling to sustain a meager existence by working as news-

boys. He seemed shocked at what he discovered and vowed to his wife that he would try to provide help for such boys.⁵⁶ In March, 1912, he carefully outlined in his will a plan for the establishment of the Drumm Institute “for the maintenance, care, education, and protection of Orphan and indigent boys, or either.” Drumm also named the trustees and designated the manner in which the institute would be managed. Never wavering from his own philosophy regarding the importance of work, Drumm even delegated the terms of operation of the home:

It is my wish that the youth who may be cared for in this Institute be required to care for themselves as much as is consistent with good discipline, and that they be required to assist in the cultivation of as much of the land as may be acquired by the said trustees, as may be thought by the latter should be devoted to the raising of fruit, vegetables, flowers, hay, and cereals, and that they be carefully instructed in such work, and such other work as said trustees may think should be educated in.⁵⁷

Some people may consider Drumm’s request less than humanitarian, as if he wanted to make the boys work for their keep; however, another clause of the will explained his reasons: “They shall not be made to feel that they are objects of dependence, but that they are doing something for themselves in the Institute.”⁵⁸ That philosophy has helped many boys from the institute become leaders of society in positions that “rang[e] from a Lt. Commander in the U. S. Navy [and] an owner of an accounting firm,” to a superintendent of the institute itself, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.⁵⁹

By August, 1912, Drumm had selected and purchased a suitable farm on which to house the institute. In 1927 Drumm’s trustees purchased a 375-acre farm from Milton Welch two miles southeast of Lees Summit Road near Independence, Missouri.⁶⁰ In a beautiful location, the three-story brick farmhouse stands today much as it did when Drumm acquired it.

Just as Andrew Drumm always managed to hire worthy employees, he selected his trustees wisely. The trustees likewise have hired dedicated directors, including one former resident of the home.⁶¹ A particularly devoted director, George Berkemeier, held the position for more than forty years, retiring in 1974. He and his wife Frances continue their interest and support in the institute. A new dormitory, named the Berkemeier House in their honor, provides a home for most of the current residents.⁶²

During seventy years of existence, Drumm Institute has, of necessity, undergone changes. It has always housed from four to fifty-

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

four students, endeavoring to serve its original purpose, but for the first time two girls are among the twelve current residents of the institute. Director Rufus Little explained, "At the Institute, we were concerned about certain situations where siblings were separated and felt a need to include girls rather than exclude them from a family. We have two groups of siblings now and feel confident about this decision." In addition, eighty "at risk" students attend Drumm High School, an alternative school adapted to serve their special needs.⁶²

Camps, 4H projects, and craft shows fill the summer months at the farm. Alumni return for a reunion each summer at the shady retreat on Lees Summit Drive. Trophies and certificates, particularly agricultural ones, line the walls of the buildings, attesting to the impressive accomplishments of the past. The awards support Drumm's desire for the boys to experience the satisfaction and sense of achievement derived from planting and watching things grow; however, a farm operates far differently today than it did in 1919, and a city ordinance prohibits livestock. Drumm intended that the farm be self-sufficient, but today's operational costs prohibit that possibility. Trustees have had to make alternative decisions including plans to build a golf course on the property that will provide employment for students as well as training in sports and golf course management. One may wonder if the work-oriented Andrew Drumm would approve, but many of his business schemes in his ninety-one years shocked his more complacent peers. It is easy to imagine the Major stepping into a new millennium, excited at the prospect of embarking upon yet another adventure.

Tucked in the trees on Lees Summit Drive, Andrew Drumm High School continues to advance the institute's original purpose. Drumm Institute has been altered, but it still functions as intended, improving the lives of underprivileged youth. As its founder, Major Andrew Drumm carved a place in the development of the West when he leased pasture land in Oklahoma Territory. Employing pioneer fortitude and work ethics in the ranching, meat-packing, and banking industries, he remained a visionary. A full eighty years after his death, his generous legacy continues to provide yet another impressive venture.

ENDNOTES

* Bonnie Haas, who lives in Ingersoll, Oklahoma, is a freelance writer and reporter for the Alfalfa Electric Cooperative newsletter. Joyce J. Bender is Associate Professor of English at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell.

¹ In his memoirs, Ralph H. Records described Drumm as one who spent considerable time reading and writing business projects. Ralph H. Records, "Recollections of a Cowboy of the Seventies and Eighties," Records Collection, Box 6, University of Oklahoma Archives, Norman.

² George C. Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm: 1881–1919: An Adventurer Who Left a Living Memorial* (Topeka, Kansas: H. M. Ives and Sons, 1976), 3.

³ Meade L. McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm, 1828–1919: A Sketch Prepared and Read by Meade L. McClure Before the Missouri Valley Historical Society" May 31, 1919, 6.

⁴ Ted Ballas, "Drumm Street-San Francisco," *The San Francisco Almanac*, 5 (July, 1994): 12.

⁵ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 6.

⁶ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 7.

⁷ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 9.

⁸ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 9.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Paul I. Wellman, *The Trampling Herd* (Garden City, New York: Copper Square Publishers, 1974), 203.

¹¹ *Kansas City Star*, December 16, 1917.

¹² David E. Dexter, "Major Andrew Drumm," *Kansas City Post*, February 6, 1919, 58.

¹³ Interview with Ron Estes, descendant of Andrew Drumm, July, 1998. Years later Andrew Drumm remembered each of his living siblings by providing for them in his will. "Last Will and Testament and Codicil of Andrew Drumm, Deceased," 1–2, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City, Missouri, Public Library. The family remains a close one through family reunions held every July and through the publication of a family newsletter, *The Drumm Beat*.

¹⁴ Edward Everett Dale, *The Range Cattle Industry: Ranching on the Great Plains from 1865 to 1925* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1930); Carl N. Tyson, "Ranching and Government Policy in Oklahoma," *Ranch and Range in Oklahoma* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978), 72.

¹⁵ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 20–21.

¹⁶ Edwin C. McReynolds, *Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), 262.

¹⁷ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 20–21.

¹⁸ Interview with Roland Meyer, July 30, 1998.

¹⁹ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 23.

²⁰ Angie Debo, *The Cowman's Southwest: Being the Reminiscences of Oliver Nelson Freighter, Camp Cook, Cowboy, Frontiersman in Kansas, Indian Territory, Texas, and Oklahoma 1878–1893* (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1953), 205.

²¹ *Kiowa (Kansas) Herald*, November 14, 1886.

²² McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 10.

²³ Laban Samuel Records, *Cherokee Outlet Cowboy: Recollections of Laban S. Records*, ed. Ellen Jane Maris Wheeler (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), 214.

²⁴ Records, "Recollections of a Cowboy," 483.

²⁵ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 30.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 31.

²⁷ William W. Savage, Jr., *The Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1973), 34–37; Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 31.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

²⁸ Gaston Litton, *History of Oklahoma at the Golden Anniversary of Statehood*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1957), 4: 337.

²⁹ Andrew Drumm to Chief Dennis Bushyhead, December 18, 1882, CHN104-1, Cherokee National Records, Archives Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

³⁰ Edward Everett Dale, *Oklahoma: The Story of a State* (Evanston, Illinois: Row, Peterson, and Company, 1949), 213.

³¹ Jean McBrayer Brown, *A History of Kiowa, Old and New, on the Cowboy-Indian Frontier* (Lawrence, Kansas: The House of Usher, 1979), 34.

³² *Ibid.*, 36.

³³ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 15.

³⁴ McNeal, *When Kansas Was Young* (New York: Macmillan, 1922), 186.

³⁵ Berkemeier, *Major Andrew Drumm*, 32.

³⁶ *Kiowa Herald*, October 15, 1884.

³⁷ William W. Savage, Jr., "Of Cattle and Corporations: The Rise, Progress, and Termination of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 71 (Summer, 1993): 140.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 143.

³⁹ McReynolds, *History of the Sooner State*, 66.

⁴⁰ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 16.

⁴¹ Meyer interview.

⁴² Brown, *History of Kiowa*, 48.

⁴³ Kiowa City Charter, Archives, Kiowa Museum, Kansas.

⁴⁴ *Kiowa Herald*, July 24, 1884.

⁴⁵ Brown, *History of Kiowa*, 100.

⁴⁶ Obituary clipping, Archives, Kiowa Museum, Kansas.

⁴⁷ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 20.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 28.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁵⁰ Dennis T. Flynn, former congressman from Oklahoma Territory, was the principal speaker at the dedication. Today the sandstone monument stands in a privately owned pasture where occasional visitors must climb over barbed wire fences to read the weathered message. It is located north from the intersection of US 64 and Oklahoma Highways 11 and 8, then two and one-quarter miles east, on the left side of the dirt road.

⁵¹ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 26.

⁵² *Kansas City Star*, December 16, 1917.

⁵³ McNeal, *When Kansas Was Young*, 178.

⁵⁴ McClure, "Major Andrew Drumm," 29–30.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 32.

⁵⁶ William Richards, *The Andrew Drumm Institute: The First Fifty Years* (Kansas City, Missouri: Privately printed, 1979).

⁵⁷ Drumm, "Last Will and Testament."

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, sec. 6.

⁵⁹ Richards, *Andrew Drumm Institute*; "Drumm Institute Gives Youth Opportunity," in Richards, *Andrew Drumm Institute*.

In his book, *The Inland Ground: An Evocation of the American Middle West* (New York: Atheneum, 1970), Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes, a 1955 graduate of Drumm Institute, described his life at the institute as:

Feeling at times, in the isolation of adolescence, despair of my past and despair of my future, but never able to sustain such despair of long because the land and the animals and the work always called me back to those things that must be done next, to those daily regularities that insist on the continuation and preservation of the world.

Rhodes received the Pulitzer Prize for *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986).

⁶⁰ *Kansas City Times*, November 11, 1927.

⁶¹ Arthur R. Kelly came to live at the farm in 1945 and graduated in 1952. Upon Berkemeier's retirement on June 1, 1974, Kelly became the new director, serving until December, 1977. Richards, *Andrew Drumm Institute*.

⁶² Interview with George and Frances Berkemeier, July, 1997. Berkemeier also is the author of the only biography of Andrew Drumm.

⁶³ Telephone interview with Rufus Little, director of the Andrew Drumm Institute, February, 1999.