

☆ NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame— Angie Debo

By Bob L. Blackburn

The Oklahoma Historical Society inaugurated the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1993 to recognize individuals who devoted their careers to publishing, researching, teaching, and collecting Oklahoma history.

In April, 1994, the Society inducted William Parker Campbell, Edward Everett Dale, Angie Debo, and Richard E. Bell. Campbell's bio-bibliography appeared in the Summer, 1994, issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Dale's in the Fall, 1994, issue. This issue focuses on the third inductee, Angie Debo.

Angie Debo

Born on a farm in Kansas in 1890, Angie Debo moved with her family in 1899 to a farm near Marshall, Oklahoma. She became a rural school teacher at age sixteen, then went back to high school and graduated at the age of twenty-three. She received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1918 under the tutelage of Edward Everett Dale.

Debo then went to the University of Chicago, where she received the master of arts degree in 1924. Her thesis was published the same year by Smith College under the title, *The Historical Background of the American Policy of Isolation*. From 1924 to 1933 she was a member of the History Department at West Texas Teachers College.

Debo's Ph.D dissertation, which she completed at the University of Oklahoma in 1933, received the John H. Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association. Published in 1934 as *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*, the book was so well received Debo left teaching to write full time. In all she published nearly a dozen books, including *And Still the Waters Run* and *Prairie City*, and many other works. Throughout her long career Debo's guiding principle, though not always a popular one, was to "discover the truth and publish it." That is a worthy goal for every historian.



Angie Debo, 1994 inductee in the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame (Courtesy Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Library).

The following represents the major works of Angie Debo:

Books

- With James Fred Rippy. *The Historical Background of the American Policy of Isolation*. Northampton, Massachusetts: Department of History of Smith College, 1924.
- "History of the Choctaw Nation from the End of the Civil War to the Close of the Tribal Period." Ph.D. diss., University of Oklahoma, 1933.
- The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1934; second ed., 1961.
- The Road to Disappearance*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1934.
- And Still the Waters Run*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1940; reprint ed., New York: Gordian Press, 1966; reprint ed., Princeton University Press, 1972.
- Tulsa: From Creek Town to Oil Capital*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1943.
- Prairie City: The Story of an American Community*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1944.
- Oklahoma, Foot-loose and Fancy-free*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949.
- The Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma: Report on Social and Economic Conditions*. Philadelphia: Indian Rights Association, 1951.
- A History of the Indians of the United States*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970.

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Geronimo: The Man, His Time, His Place. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1976.

Edited Books

With John M. Oskison. *Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State*, comp. by Writers' Program, Work Projects Administration, State of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941; second ed., 1945; reprint ed., 1947.

The Cowman's Southwest; being the Reminiscences of Oliver Nelson, Freighter, Camp Cook, Cowboy, Frontiersman in Kansas, Indian Territory, Texas, and Oklahoma, 1878-1893, by Oliver Nelson. *The Western Frontiersmen*, 4. Glendale, California: A.H. Clark Co., 1953.

History of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Natchez Indians, by Horatio B. Cushman. Stillwater, Oklahoma: Redlands Press, 1962.

Chapters in Monographs

"Apaches as Southeastern Indians." *Indians of the Lower South: Past and Present*, edited by John K. Mahon. Pensacola, Florida: Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference, 1975.

"Edward Everett Dale: The Teacher." *Frontier Historian: The Life and Work of Edward Everett Dale*, edited by Arrell M. Gibson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1975.

"Major Indian Record Collections in Oklahoma." *Indian-White Relations: A Persistent Paradox*, edited by Jane F. Smith and Robert M. Kvasnicka. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1976.

Articles

"The Social and Economic Life of the Comanches." *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, 3 (1930): 38-52.

"John Rollin Ridge." *Southwest Review*, 17 (1931): 59-71.

"Southern Refugees of the Cherokee Nation." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 35 (1932): 255-266.

"Education in the Choctaw Country after the Civil War." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 10 (1932): 382-391.

"An English View of the Wild West." *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, 6 (1933): 24-44.

"History and Customs of the Kiowas." *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, 7 (1934): 42-52.

"Writing Local History." *Writer*, 55 (1942): 19-22.

"Jane Heard Clinton." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 24 (1946): 20-25.

"Early Publications of the Oklahoma Historical Society." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 26 (1948): 325-328.

"Oklahoma History Goes to Press." *Bulletin of the Oklahoma State Library*, 1 (1948): 67-80.

"The Site of the Battle of Round Mountain, 1861." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 27 (1949): 187-206.

"Albert H. Ellis." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 28 (1950): 382-389.

"Quanah Parker." *American Heritage*, 4 (1953): 30-31.

"Oklahoma Pioneer." *Southern Observer*, 2 (1954): 240-243.

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- "Termination and the Oklahoma Indians." *American Indian*, 7 (1955): 17-23.
- "What Oklahoma Indians Need." *American Indian*, 7 (1956): 13-21.
- "Two Graves in Oklahoma." *Harper's Magazine*, 213 (1956): 64-66.
- "The Location of the Battle of Round Mountain." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 41 (1963): 70-104.
- "Realizing Oklahoma's Literary Potential." *Oklahoma Librarian*, 16 (1966): 67-75.
- "Libraries Exceed 500,000 Volumes." *The University of Tulsa Magazine*, 13 (1975): 2-5.
- "To Establish Justice." *Western Historical Quarterly*, 7 (1976): 405-411.

Edited Articles

- "The Christian Church of Sheridan, Oklahoma," by Charles Hazelrigg. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 20 (1942): 398-401.
- "The Diary of Charles Hazelrigg," by Charles Hazelrigg. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 25 (1947): 229-270.

Other Contributions

- "The Right Kind of Wisdom." *Farm and Fireside*, 53 (1929): 14-15.
- The Oklahoma Almanac: Golden Anniversary Issue, 1957* (1957): 27-28.
- "Foreword." *Oklahoma Indian Painting-Pottery*, ed. and comp. by Acee Blue Eagle. Tulsa, Oklahoma: Acorn Publishing Co., 1959.
- "Foreword." *Half-Sun on the Columbia: A Biography of Chief Moses*, by Robert H. Ruby and John A. Brown. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.
- "Foreword." *Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians*, by Grant Foreman. Sixth printing, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972.
- "Foreword." *Civilization: As Told to Florence Drake*, by Thomas Wildcat Alford. Reprint ed., Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1979.

Numerous book and article reviews in publications such as *Arizona and the West*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *American Historical Review*, *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, and *American Indian Quarterly*.

Amarillo Sunday News and Globe

Americana Annual: An Encyclopedia of the Events of 1954

The Daily Oklahoman

Dictionary of American Biography

Encyclopedia Americana

Notable American Women

Oklahoma City Times

Stillwater NewsPress

Tulsa Daily World