

## ☆ NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame— Emma Estill-Harbour

*By Bob L. Blackburn*

Delivered at the OHS Annual Meeting Awards Banquet, April 19, 1996

Whereas the first two 1996 inductees, John Hope Franklin and John Joseph Mathews, were writers, the third inductee earned her status as a teacher and civic leader.

Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour was born in Missouri, but moved to Edmond, Oklahoma, in 1912 to teach at Central State College, where she would remain until her retirement in 1952. While carrying a full teaching schedule, she attended the University of Oklahoma, where she graduated with a Ph.D. in history in 1933.

In addition to educating several generations of history students, Dr. Harbour found time to serve the state that employed her. She belonged to a long list of groups, including the Oklahoma Writers Association, Federated Women's Clubs, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1892, Daughters of the American Colonists, numerous church groups, and several honorary sororities and academic societies.

She was active in politics, named by Governor Martin Trapp to the State Illiteracy Commission and by President Herbert Hoover to the National Commission for Better Homes. She served the Oklahoma Historical Society, writing several articles for *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, and serving as a director of the Board and later as president of the Society.

As her colleague Joe Jackson would write, "Let us be reminded that Oklahoma, the nation, and the world is a better place because she came their way." The following represents the principal published works of Emma Estill-Harbour.

#### **Dissertation**

"The History of the Red River Country Since 1803." (University of Oklahoma, 1932).



*Emma Estill-Harbour,  
1996 inductee to the  
Oklahoma Historians  
Hall of Fame (Courtesy  
Oklahoma Historical  
Society).*

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**Articles**

“The Great Lottery,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 9 (December, 1931): 365–381.

“Greer County,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 12 (June, 1934): 145–162.

**Other Contributions**

*Oklahoma Teacher*

*Shakespearian Magazine*

*Southwestern Political Science Magazine*