

## ☆ NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### “Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame— William Brown Morrison”

*By Bob L. Blackburn*

Delivered at the OHS Annual Awards Banquet, April 18, 1997

Whereas Emmet Starr was a historian for his people, William Brown Morrison was a historian to his regional community. Born in Virginia, Morrison moved west to teach first in Texas and then in the Choctaw Nation at Durant Presbyterian College. He served as president of the college for ten years, then became a professor of history at Southeastern State College in Durant in 1922.

While teaching several generations of students, Morrison discovered the rich vein of history at his doorstep. In the best tradition of regional history flowering in the 1920s and 1930s, he produced a series of articles for *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* that included topics such as the Reverend Cyrus Kingsbury, Forts McCullough, Washita, Towson, and Arbuckle, Colbert's Ferry, and several biographies. His books, all written with a literary flair, included *Red Man's Trail*, *An Oklahoman Abroad*, *Out in Oklahoma*, and *Military Camps and Posts*. Obviously, Morrison understood the rewards of state and local history.

The following represents the principal published works of William Brown Morrison:

#### **Books**

*An Oklahoman Abroad: A Summer Travelog*. Durant, Oklahoma: Democrat Publishing Company, 1928.

*Military Camps and Posts in Oklahoma*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Company, 1936.

#### **Articles**

“Diary of Reverend Cyrus Kingsbury,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 3 (June, 1925): 152–157.

“The Choctaw Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 4 (June, 1926): 166–183.

“Fort McCulloch,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 4 (September, 1926): 216–222.



*William Brown Morrison, inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1997 (Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society).*

"A Journey Across Oklahoma Ninety Years Ago," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 4 (December, 1926): 333-337.

"Fort Washita," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 5 (June, 1927): 251-158.

"Fort Arbuckle," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 6 (March, 1928): 26-34.

"A Visit to Old Ft. Washita," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 7 (June, 1929): 175-179.

"Fort Towson," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 8 (June, 1930): 226-232.

"Cornstalk the Shawnee," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 9 (March, 1931): 13-16.

"Relics of Former Days in Oklahoma," *Oklahoma Teacher*, 12 (May, 1931): 12-13, 25.

"Old Philadelphia Baptist Church," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 13 (September, 1935): 266-272.

"The Saga of Skullyville," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 16 (June, 1938): 234-240.

"Colbert Ferry on Red River," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 16 (September, 1938): 302-314.

### **Pamphlets**

*The Red Man's Trail*. Richmond, Virginia: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1932.

*Out in Oklahoma*. Durant, Oklahoma: Privately Printed, c. 1934.