

## OKLAHOMA'S CONFEDERATE VETERANS HOME

By Tommy G. Lashley\*

In spite of the fact that Confederate veterans who came to Indian Territory after the Civil War dispersed across the entire region, they became and remained a vital and united force in the development of Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory and eventually the state of Oklahoma. A strong Confederate veteran organization, the Oklahoma Division of the United Confederate Veterans, deserves much of the credit for this phenomenon. This group, along with the Oklahoma Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, wielded considerable political power at the state level. Through the efforts of these groups, many benefits were granted to Confederate veterans living in Oklahoma that bested the efforts of most states in the deep south. The best example of these benefits was the Oklahoma Confederate Home.

Oklahoma women of Southern background had much to do with the unusually good provisions that the state made for its Confederate veterans. The United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1906 began a temporary establishment to house indigent veterans, their wives and their widows; the MacAlester home was merely to serve until a permanent plant could be built. The *Confederate Veteran* credits the conception of Oklahoma veteran facilities to Mrs. Serena Carter of Ardmore. Mrs. Carter and her husband, Judge Benjamin Carter, were native born Oklahomans, and the judge was a Confederate veteran. While Mrs. Carter worked diligently to rally public support for such a home, both she and her husband died before actual work began.<sup>1</sup>

Definite action began on February 20, 1909, when eight Confederate veterans met in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to form a private corporation, "The Confederate Veterans Home Association of Oklahoma." The group was granted a charter by the Oklahoma Secretary of State. Association members included John Treadgill, A. P. Watson, R. A. Sneed, J. R. Pulliam, J. M. Hall, D. M. Hailley and Buck Rogers. On March 20, 1909, the group met as directed by William Cross, the Oklahoma commander of the United Confederate Veterans, and became the first board of trustees of the Okla-

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<sup>1</sup> Eugene Ray, "The Oklahoma Soldiers Home," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XIX, No. 9 (September, 1911), pp. 418-419; Smith, "The History of the Oklahoma Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1908-1955," Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, pp. 1-2.

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The Oklahoma Confederate Veterans Home located at Ardmore

homa Confederate Home. They appointed William Cross, chairman; A. P. Watson, secretary; and J. J. McAlester, treasurer. W. F. Gilmer of Ardmore was selected as the financial agent in charge of soliciting and receiving funds for the project.<sup>2</sup>

There was much rivalry among Oklahoma cities for the location of the home. The board met on June 30, 1909, and selected a committee to examine several proposed sites. R. A. Sneed, J. R. Pulliam, Mrs. W. T. Culbertson and Mrs. T. C. Harril were to visit and investigate the following cities; Vinita, Claremore, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Sulphur and Ardmore. Each city was also allowed to send a spokesman to present its case to the board. N. F. Hancock reported that Muskogee would provide a ten acre site and \$3,000 cash if the home were located there. Vinita sent J. M. Orr to offer forty acres

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<sup>2</sup> "The Confederate Home of Oklahoma," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXXII, No. 6 (June, 1924), pp. 217, 244; George W. Lewis, Superintendent, *First Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home* (1912), Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, p. 1.

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of land, an eight room house, a barn and \$1,000 cash. Claremore offered the trustees sixty acres of land with some improvements and radium waters, along with \$1,000 cash through their representative, Thomas D. Bard. J. R. Wayne spoke for Ardmore; the city was prepared to give forty acres of land in two different locations, \$7,500 cash and free water, gas and electricity for five years. C. B. Emanuel of Sulphur reported that his city would contribute twenty acres of land adjoining the Platt National Park, including an artesian well. Oklahoma City, promised W. C. Richardson, would give one hundred acres of land in one location or twenty acres at another site. I. M. Putman of the capital city would also contribute \$5,000 for improvements on the land. After careful investigation, the committee selected Ardmore as the most suitable site.<sup>3</sup>

On August 3, 1909, the board met and appointed D. M. Hailey, R. A. Sneed and J. R. Pulliam to choose among several building sites offered by Ardmore. They first favored a forty acre tract near Lorena Park called the Felix West, but upon investigation they were dissatisfied with the land's title and accepted a twenty-three and three-fifths acre plot from Mrs. Lutie Hailey Walcott of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Walcott addition was one-quarter mile from the city limits. Although Ardmore gave the home free water for twenty years, the promise of cash, free gas and free electricity was never carried out.<sup>4</sup>

On June 24, 1910, Ardmore Masons laid the corner stone, and actual construction began. Before it had proceeded far, it was clear that the cost of completion, estimated at \$25,000 would be at least \$10,000 short. The board of trustees had already taken out personal notes amounting to about \$3,000 so that construction could continue. As collections for the home had amounted to only \$15,697, something had to be done to cover the additional expenses. Thus, a petition was sent to Governor Lee Cruce that \$10,000 out of the maintenance fund granted by the Oklahoma Legislature be set aside to meet additional construction costs. Permission was granted under the condition that the corporation convey the deed of the Ardmore plant to the state of Oklahoma. On March 6, 1911, the deed was registered, and the governor appointed the following board of trustees for the Oklahoma Confederate Home: D. M. Hailey, John Threadgill, George H. Bruce, J. W. Blanton and R. A. Sneed, all Confederate veterans. Also serving on the board of trustees were N. F. Hancock and Mrs. W. R. Clement of the sons and daughters associations of the United Confederate Veterans. Hailey

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

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Mrs. W. R. Clement, a member of the 1911 Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma Confederate Veterans Home

was elected president; Threadgill became vice-president; Bruce was chosen treasurer; and Sneed was selected as secretary.<sup>5</sup>

The Oklahoma Confederate Home was officially opened in July, 1911. The United Daughters of the Confederacy chapters around the state completely furnished all of the sleeping rooms in the home. A plaque with the sponsoring unit's name and location was placed on each door. There were eight stipulations governing admission to the home as listed in the *Fourth Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home*.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7; State of Oklahoma, "House Bill No. 557," *Session Laws of 1910-1911* (Guthrie, Oklahoma: Leader Publishing Company, 1911), p. 376.

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Box, Superintendent, *Fourth Biennial Report to the Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home* (1918), Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, p. 15.

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1. Residence in the state of Oklahoma for two years prior to the date of application.
2. Honorable service in the army or navy of the Confederate States.
3. Physical inability to support self or family.
4. Wife or widow of any soldier or sailor of the Confederate States.
5. A full 'Muster and Description List,' certified to under oath by applicant, identified and endorsed by two comrades. No person of unsound mind shall be admitted.
6. Certificate of judge or county clerk, that he believes applicant to be worthy of admission and that if admitted, the County Clerk will furnish transportation to the Home.
7. In counties where there is a camp of United Confederate Veterans, approved by the Commander and Adjutant of such camp and an order for admission signed by the President or Vice-President.
8. Applicant must obligate himself to perform such duties as policing the grounds, caring for the lawns, beautifying the home, and such other duties as the Superintendent or his assistant may direct.

Approximately eighty-five veterans, wives and widows became the first residents. By act of the Oklahoma Legislature, the state agreed to maintain the home for twenty-five years or as long as there were eligible people in need of care. The response to the home was so great that it quickly became too small for the number who sought admission. One year after its opening, an additional \$16,500 was asked of the Oklahoma Legislature to build and equip an annex capable of housing twenty additional residents. Although the number of residents fluctuated from year to year, the decade following the home's construction saw many improvements made to keep up with the growing number of veterans.<sup>7</sup>

By 1922, the Oklahoma Confederate Home plant consisted of the main building, a hospital, an annex for twenty additional residents, three barns, a power house and several smaller wooden structures. The main building was of gray brick, 133 by 84 feet. Two large porches were supported by four Ionic pillars. The first floor featured twenty-seven sleeping rooms, an office, a salon, the kitchen and dining quarters. The second floor was divided into thirty rooms for residents and workers. A wooden addition containing five rooms was added to the west side of the building in 1922. The hospital, a thirty-eight by seventy-four foot two-story brick building, provided twenty-

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<sup>7</sup> George W. Lewis to J. B. A. Robertson, August 31, 1922. Oklahoma State Archives, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Clinton Orrin Bunn, ed., *Revised Laws of Oklahoma 1910* (2 vol., St. Paul, Minnesota: Pioneer Company, 1912), Vol. II, Chap. 68, Article X, p. 1919; State of Oklahoma, "House Bill No. 386," *Session Laws of 1913* (Guthrie, Oklahoma: Cooperative Publishing Company, 1913), pp. 236-237.

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The large porches of the Confederate Home were supported by four Ionic pillars

eight semiprivate rooms. It also housed kitchen facilities and a laboratory. In 1922, it was staffed around the clock by licensed nurses, with the home physician always on call. A thirty-two by seventy-nine foot brick annex was used for overflow applicants and also provided commissary space. The powerhouse was erected for \$3,000 and housed a boiler which provided an ample supply of hot water for the entire plant. One of the three barns was used for hay and grain storage, one used as a stable and the other housed a dairy herd. A large orchard, corn fields and vegetable gardens surrounded the plant. The total appraised value for the home in 1922 was \$161,000; this figure did not include the land, livestock, farm tools, touring car or farm truck. One hundred and four residents were housed in the Oklahoma Confederate Home that year.<sup>8</sup>

The Oklahoma Confederate Home was often the scene of festivities. On Sundays the veterans were usually entertained by United Daughters of the Confederacy members who held teas and special parties. In addition many

<sup>8</sup> Lewis to Robertson, August 31, 1922, Oklahoma State Archives.

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of the residents enjoyed daily sessions of story telling and reliving experiences of the Civil War. The first major event in the history of the home came early in its existence. On June 20, 1912, Mrs. Susan Whittle, known as "Grandma," celebrated her one hundredth birthday. People from around the state came to the open house to offer their congratulations and best wishes. The Ardmore United Daughters of the Confederacy provided a cake complete with one hundred candles. Three years later, "Grandma" Whittle was still a resident of the home and quite a celebrity to many Oklahomans. On November 28, 1915, the *Daily Oklahoman* carried an exclusive interview with Mrs. Whittle and her "young" husband, Michael, who was nine years her junior. Reporter Paul Cottrell found Mrs. Whittle reclining on a feather bed that had been a present from her grandmother when Mrs. Whittle was only three year old. "This feather bed and me is gettin' mighty old," she assured Cottrell, "but my mind is pretty good to remember yet, even if my feet has gone back on me."<sup>9</sup> Her husband of sixty-four years laughed and agreed that her tongue was as long and limber as ever. "Grandma" Whittle recounted several girlhood experiences, including witnessing the use of whipping posts and cattle brands for punishing criminals. About the Civil War years, she recalled the deserters who sneaked home to see their families. Regardless of the big rewards offered for deserter information, she never turned one in as she felt sorry for the war-weary men. "Grandma" Whittle lived to celebrate her 106th birthday in complete contentment among those who loved and appreciated her.<sup>10</sup>

The first wedding in the house took place in November, 1912, and began a tradition which continued for years. The home's superintendent, John Galt, wrote Hailey, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, concerning a Mr. Stoneburner of Muskogee County and Mrs. Bolling of Capitol Hill: "Both have been here about six weeks; have fallen desperately in love and want the consent of yourself to marry. . . . He is 68 years old and she is 67. The other old folks are looking forward with eagerness to the marriage and if you are favorable they will be 'one' as soon as I hear from you."<sup>11</sup> Hailey gave his permission and told Galt to kiss the bride for him. In 1923, the *Daily Oklahoman* reported that the home was full of prospective brides and grooms and called proposals a chief pastime among the veterans. The article named as the homes' most available bachelorette, a seventy-nine year old widow, Mrs. Sallie Williams, who was sought by almost every resident bachelor. J. T. Rosser, at eighty years of age, was cited as the home's busiest

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), November 28, 1915.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, February 25, 1923.

<sup>11</sup> John Galt to D. M. Hailey, October 15, 1912, Oklahoma State Archives.

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Though there were several instances of complaints concerning the operation of the Veterans Home, generally it was the scene of festivities and parties

play-boy. The wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. M. Lourimore, eighty-three and eighty-two years of age respectively, accompanied the article. The two were secretly planning a honeymoon, and Lourimore confided to the reporter, "Why, the more I see of her, the better I like her!"<sup>12</sup>

While most of the residents and workers had nothing but praise for the home, there were a few instances where problems arose. In 1920, Governor J. B. A. Robertson received a letter from W. J. Fleming, a resident, complaining of the food the residents were being served. Fleming accused Superintendent Jim Story of selling the produce they raised for his own profit and feeding the residents leftovers and canned goods. He was further upset that no cooking was allowed in the rooms or anywhere on the grounds. "There is weeks at a time that we don't see any meat," he complained, "have biscuits [sic] once a day so bitter with baking powders that they burns our mouths."<sup>13</sup> How much truth the letter contained is speculation, but a clue is provided by a similar letter sent to Governor William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray in 1932. Murray sent an investigative team to the home, which looked into all charges thoroughly; however, the team reported that there was no truth in any of the charges, calling them "irresponsible and without founda-

<sup>12</sup> *Daily Oklahoman*, February 25, 1923.

<sup>13</sup> W. J. Fleming to Robertson, October 2, 1920, Oklahoma State Archives.



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tion." The explanation they offered was the senility and grouchy disposition of a few residents. They also found one socialist resident who opposed the governor's administration and termed several residents "old and childish." The report concluded that the residents praised the management on one hand, yet complained about certain policies on the other. "Of course we must ignore their weaknesses. That is the only evidence we find of any probable source of complaint," the team concluded.<sup>14</sup>

The home's board of trustees report to the governor for 1913 and 1914 shows that disciplinary measures had to be taken in some instances: "Under all the circumstances we consider the present happy condition of the home remarkable, and in a great measure due to the support given by the board to those in charge of maintaining discipline among this large family. We have endeavored to deal justly with those under our charge in the management of the home, and if we have erred it has been of the head, not the heart." The report went on to say that there were a few instances where rebellious and insubordinate residents were asked to leave after every other alternative had been exhausted.<sup>15</sup>

In the spring of 1918, many complaints were made to the home's board of trustees about general discontent among the residents. The 1917-1918 report to the governor disclosed that the problems had been traced to one resident, W. T. Simpson. Upon the testimony of several other residents, he was judged to be unsuitable for such regimented living quarters and was asked to leave. The board's vote was unanimous. Although such cases can be found in the records of the home, they were exceptions and not the rule. There is much evidence that problems were minimal and that the atmosphere in general was genial and inviting. In 1927, Mrs. T. S. Jones, an Arkansas visitor to the home, was so impressed with the plant and its residents that she published an article in the *Confederate Veteran* praising it. She was surprised at the modern equipment and facilities, as well as the large number of residents in an area that was only tenuously a part of the Confederacy. She was, however, most impressed by the atmosphere: "They are as happy and contented as they could possibly be in their own homes. It is a home in every sense of the word. . . . The veterans and their wives are justly proud of their home. So many of them expressed themselves to me in these

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<sup>14</sup> Executive Committee of the Confederate Home Board, *Report of the Executive Committee of the Confederate Home Board* (1932), Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> J. C. Ijams, Superintendent, *Second Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home* (1914), Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, p. 14.

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words: 'We have everything heart could wish for here and are just one big happy family.'<sup>16</sup>

In later years, many people other than Confederate veterans benefited from the Oklahoma Confederate Home. In 1938, the National Youth Administration repaired and remodeled the two-story brick building that was unoccupied. In the process, about \$1,200 was paid to needy youths for their work on the project. On completion, a semi-resident National Youth Administration project for girls was established in the building. In 1939, Roger S. Umphers, Oklahoma National Youth Administration supervisor, reported that the program had its quota of fifty girls participating. The girls spent two weeks of each month at the home. Four hours of each day were used for special classes in cooking, sewing, health and leisure-time activities. Each girl was paid \$18.00 per month, \$8.00 of which was paid back into the general expense account of the project. A boys project was also begun that year at the home. They constructed a two-story brick building which was used for a shop upon completion. In addition to the construction project, the National Youth Administration boys were hired to do emergency and repair work at the Oklahoma Confederate Home. By February of 1939, the National Youth Administration had spent \$15,860 at the home and was making plans for more elaborate projects to train young people in farming, ranching, woodwork and mechanics.<sup>17</sup>

In 1942, early in World War II, the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home offered its facilities to the War Department of the United States for training and housing men and women of the armed services. The few veterans, wives and widows still residing in the home were moved into the south hospital building, and the other structures were turned over to the Federal government.<sup>18</sup>

After all the Confederate veterans in Oklahoma had died, the 1949 Oklahoma Legislature opened the home to Oklahoma veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. The home continued to be controlled and maintained by the state of Oklahoma, but the name changed to Oklahoma Veterans Home. The deed specified that the state was to care for Confederate veterans' widows as long as they lived and needed assistance. In 1955, there were twelve widows remaining. A building was set aside for them, with medical care provided. A new superintendent's

<sup>16</sup> Mrs. T. S. Jones, Sr., "The Confederate Home of Oklahoma," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXXV, No. 10 (October, 1927), p. 369; Box, *Fourth Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home*, p. 17.

<sup>17</sup> Roger S. Umphers to Mrs. Leota E. Edison, February 21, 1939, Oklahoma State Archives.

<sup>18</sup> *Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Confederate Home* (Ardmore, Oklahoma: 1942), pp. 1-2.

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## CONFEDERATE VETERAN BENEFITS IN FIFTEEN SOUTHERN STATES

Year Home Established	Income in Home, 1914	Appropriations for Home, 1914	Pensions First Paid	Pensions Paid 1914	Annual Pensions to Veterans and Widows	Expended for Pensions and Homes Since 1865	Veterans on Pension Rolls	Widows on Pension Rolls	
Virginia	1864	274	\$ 50,000	1868	\$ 340,000	\$ 30	\$ 4,941,000	8,207	3,811
North Carolina	1861	140	35,000	1863	400,000	10	6,000,000	8,374	4,261
South Carolina	1909	90	16,400	1863	210,128	76	3,625,000	6,130	4,732
Georgia	1905	120	50,000	1869	1,125,000	60	17,750,000	10,000	7,000
Florida	1895	23	3,810	1863	626,000	120	6,334,000	2,968	2,261
Kansas	1902	86	12,000	1869	925,000	64	10,718,000	8,800	6,500
Mississippi	1906	119	40,000	1868	400,000	40	5,304,000	5,613	None
Louisiana	1882	123	48,000	1870	350,000	76	3,907,000	3,234	2,276
Texas	1891	165	76,000	1869	870,000	90	6,300,000	12,000	None
Arkansas	1891	138	37,500	1892	625,000	30	3,500,000	4,983	4,983
Kentucky	1892	110	38,650	1913	101,000	120	901,000	1,800	900
Tennessee	1889	92	16,000	1891	800,000	100	7,500,000	3,094	3,189
Maryland	1888	87	15,500	None	None	None	360,500	None	None
Oklahoma	1911	95	17,500 <sup>19</sup>	1913	None	120	121,000	None	None
Missouri	1895	109	60,000	None	None	None	150,000	None	None
West Virginia	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Total	---	2,376	\$108,000	---	\$7,473,128	---	\$41,821,000	85,003	43,150

Confederate veteran benefits in Oklahoma as compared to the other Southern states

home was erected, and other improvements were made. At that time there were about 150 residents.<sup>19</sup>

Although the Oklahoma Legislature regularly appropriated funds for the maintenance of the Oklahoma Confederate Home, a new dimension was added in 1915 when Representative San Hargis, a Confederate veteran, introduced a bill in the legislature providing for a pension of \$10.00 per month to all dependent Confederate veterans, their wives and their widows who were incapacitated by age or disease. However, residents of the Oklahoma Confederate Home were not to receive this \$10.00 pension. Confederate veterans in Oklahoma were very fortunate to have not only a home for themselves, their wives and their widows, but also a pension. The bill was approved by the governor on February 24, 1915, and was put into effect ninety days after the legislature adjourned. Most Southern states did not offer their veterans nearly as many benefits as Oklahoma. Although all had homes for their Confederate veterans, only four, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma, provided home for wives and widows of veterans. As a result, many needy veterans from other states never took advantage of the homes provided, because it meant leaving their wives behind.<sup>20</sup>

Oklahoma joined Florida and Missouri in providing the largest Confederate pensions. Although \$10.00 per month was not much, it was much better

<sup>19</sup> Smith, "The History of the Oklahoma Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1908-1955," p. 24; State of Oklahoma, Senate bill No. 221, *Session Laws of 1949* (Guthrie, Oklahoma: Cooperative Publishing Company, 1949), pp. 620-622.

<sup>20</sup> State of Oklahoma, "House Bill No. 138," *Session Laws of 1915* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Warden Printing and Publishing Company, 1915), pp. 67-73.

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than the \$2.50 that Virginia gave. By July 1, 1917, 3,492 applications for pensions were acknowledged, and the legislative appropriation was raised for \$48,000 to \$150,000. By 1920, the amount was \$375,000 annually, and pensions were designated as class "A" or class "B." Group "A" received \$15.00 per month and group "B" continued to receive \$10.00. All pensions were paid quarterly. Benefits were also extended to pay all Oklahoma Confederate Home residents \$5.00 monthly from the pension fund. By 1935, another pension raise had been given to Confederate veterans, but the number had dropped considerably. The Oklahoma Public Welfare Department reported three Confederate veterans in 1949 receiving pensions: James R. Arnn, Marlow, Oklahoma, age 101, \$27.00 per month; Joshua T. Jones, Tulsa, Oklahoma, age 100, \$27.00 per month; and John Shepard, Confederate Home, Ardmore, Oklahoma, age 101, \$5.00 per month. All of these veterans died in 1949; but Jones outlived the others. Fourteen Confederate widows were also enrolled; nine in the Confederate Home received \$5.00 per month and five in private homes received \$20.00 per month.<sup>21</sup>

Many Confederate leaders from throughout the South were amazed at the considerations Oklahoma gave its Confederate veterans. In spite of the fact that Indian Territory was not a significant part of the Confederacy, Confederate veterans, wives and widows were treated better in Oklahoma than in most states of the deep South. Much credit should be given to active veteran groups such as the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, but most of it can be attributed to attitudes of the people of the state regarding their Southern heritage. The support and contributions of the masses made most of the benefits possible. Mark Cunningham, a United Confederate Veteran representative, returned from an Oklahoma tour with high praises. He was amazed at the abundance of individual contributions to the Oklahoma Confederate Home fund and the complete cooperation of the legislature. "This spontaneous liberality augurs well for establishing Oklahoma's place in line with the older Southern states," he said, "and it is gratifying to Confederate comrades everywhere."

<sup>21</sup> D. M. Hailey, *Confederate Veteran Association of the State of Oklahoma* (McAlester, Oklahoma: Confederate Veterans Association of Oklahoma, 1916), p. 62; "Oklahoma to the Front," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXIII, No. 4 (April, 1915), p. 151; William D. Matthews, "Oklahoma's Veterans of the Sixties," *ibid.*, Vol. XXIX, No. 5 (May, 1921), p. 198; Perry M. DeLeon, "What the South is Doing for Her Veterans," *ibid.*, Vol. XXIII, No. 6 (June, 1915), p. 225; State of Oklahoma, "House Bill No. 403," *Session Laws of 1917* (Guthrie, Oklahoma: Cooperative Publishing Company, 1917), pp. 388-390; State of Oklahoma, "Senate Bill No. 407," *Session Laws of 1921* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Company, 1921), p. 82; State of Oklahoma, "House Bill No. 246," *Session Laws of 1935* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Company, 1935), pp. 248-249; William D. Matthews, "Pensions Allowed by Oklahoma," *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXV, No. 9 (September, 1917), p. 394; Virgil L. Stokes to Walter L. Hopkins, March 19, 1949, Oklahoma State Archives.