

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

REPRINTS FROM *The Chronicles* AND

## NOTES ON THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL CENTENNIAL

Two interesting reprints in neat covers from *The Chronicles* for Spring, 1957 (Vol. XXXV, No. 1) can be ordered from the Oklahoma Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City at 35¢ each: "Along the Washington Irving Trail in Oklahoma" and "The Butterfield Overland Mail One Hundred Years Ago."

The "Irving Trail" reprint with map is a fine guide for history classes and those interested in traveling along modern highways in Oklahoma, on Irving's *Tour on the Prairies* of 1832. This guide shows that this tour which took Irving's party a month to complete can be made by automobile in one day, and points out specifically every highway that should be followed in making the trip now.

The "Overland Mail" reprint with map has been contributed as a part of the Centennial of the first U. S. mail route overland from St. Louis to San Francisco, which crossed what is now Southeastern Oklahoma for 192 miles (1857-61). This Centennial is being celebrated in the Southeastern States from Missouri to California. Arkansas plans an outstanding celebration on the Centennial of the arrival of the first Butterfield Overland Mail coach in September, 1958. California's celebration of the Centennial includes extensive plans in publications by historical committees, banquets, special programs and out-door festivals during the two year period 1957-58. The Centennial in Oklahoma (Butterfield Overland Mail contract signed September 16, 1857, the greatest U. S. mail contract to that date) is high lighted by a two-day celebration—September 14 and 15, 1957—at Durant which City is counted as the outgrowth of "Fisher's Station" on the famous Butterfield Overland Mail route through Oklahoma one hundred years ago. Citizens of Durant erected a replica of "Fisher's Station"—a log cabin—on the grounds of the Semi-centennial Exposition of Oklahoma statehood, June 14 to July 7, 1957, at Oklahoma City. An exhibit of historical relics of a century ago from the Oklahoma Historical Society was on display in the "Fisher's Station" cabin. At either end of the cabin outside was a special exhibit: (1) an original Concord stage coach—"Butterfield Overland Mail"—owned and restored in all its true color and decoration by Mr. John D. Frizzell, member of the Overland Mail Centennial Committee in Oklahoma; and (2) a new, modern U. S. Post Office bus used in collecting the mails from rural post offices that have no railroad.

The correct list of the Butterfield Overland Mail stations in Oklahoma a century ago are given here again from the reprint, showing corrections of some typographical errors that inadvertently appeared in the list in *The Chronicles* for Spring, 1957:

1. *Walker's Station* (Sec. 18, T. 6 N., 26 E.), LeFlore County, about 1½ miles northeast of present Spivey.
2. *Fraker's Station* (Sec. 32, T. 6 N., R. 24 E.), at Latham, LeFlore County.
3. *Holloway's Station* (Sec. 24, T. 6 N., R. 21 E.) at east end of The Narrows, about 3 miles northeast of Red Oak, Lathrop County. Five miles east of Holloways was Edward's Store (Sec. 15, T. 6 N., R. 22 E.) where men were served to Overland Mail passengers soon after the establishment of the stage line.
4. *Riddle's Station* (Sec. 12, T. 6 N., R. 10 E.), 1½ miles east of Wilburton, on the section line road at Lattie, off U. S. Highway 270.
5. *Pasley's Station* (Secs. 24-25, T. 4 N., R. 17 E.) about 8 miles southwest of Higgins, Lathrop County.
6. *Blackburn's Station* (Secs. 4-5, T. 2 N., R. 15 E.) near present rock schoolhouse on county road, Pittsburg County, just south of Elm Creek.
7. *Waddell's Station* (Secs. 9-10, T. 1 S., R. 13 E.) about 8 miles southwest of Wesley, Atoka County.
8. *Geary's Station* (Sec. 19, T. 1 N., R. 12 E.) about 1½ miles southwest of Sirlington, Atoka County.
9. *Hoggy Depot* (Sec. 1, T. 3 S., R. 9 E.), 10 miles south and west of Atoka, Atoka County, and about 4 miles south of present bridge (west end) across Clear Hoggy River.
10. *Nail's* or "*Blue River Station*," (Secs. 7-8, T. 5 S., R. 9 E.) on east side of Blue River, about 2 miles southwest of Kenefick, Bryan County.
11. *Plaker's Station* (Sec. 3, T. 7 S., R. 8 E.) about 4 miles west of Durant, Bryan County. (This station was better known locally after the Civil War as "Carriage Point.")
12. *Colbert's Ferry* (Secs. 30-31, T. 3 S., R. 8 E.) about 8 miles south of Colbert, Bryan County, and just below the old highway bridge across Red River.

*Note:* The "Overland Mail" reprint gives more historical details on the above stations. The only one of the Overland Mail stations standing in Oklahoma today is Edward's store, northeast of Red Oak about 8 miles.—Editor

#### LETTER MAILED FROM EAGLE TOWN, CHOCTAW NATION, 1842

Some incidents and description of life in the Choctaw Nation in 1842, are found in a letter written by Charles C. Copeland, a Presbyterian missionary stationed at Stockbridge Mission where the Reverend Cyrus Byington served as superintendent. Stockbridge, established 1837, was located on the east side of the Mountain Fork River, about two miles from old Eagle Town, in present McCurtain County. A copy of this interesting letter, the original of which is in the hands of a descendant of Mr. Copeland, has been received by the Editorial Department, from William V. Combs, Jr., and Ralph W. Goodwin, both of whom are teaching fellows in Harvard University.

Notes compiled from the Library of the Oklahoma Historical Society state that Charles Cook Copeland was born in Dover, Vermont, on January 18, 1818. He attended school in Vermont, and taught in New Jersey. During the summer of 1841, his attention was drawn to mission work among the Choctaws, and in the following November, he set sail from Boston to New Orleans, thence traveled up the rivers and overland to Reverend Byington's station at Stockbridge in the Choctaw Nation. Mr. Copeland was assigned to Norwalk school for Choctaw boys, about five miles north of Wheelock Mission, in 1843, where he began the study of theology under Dr. Alfred Wright, New England missionary and founder of Wheelock (1832). Copeland was licensed to preach in about 1846, and four years later was assigned the work at Mount Pleasant Station, present Bryan County; in 1855, he was transferred to Bennington Church where his home is still standing, a relic of pre-Civil War days in Oklahoma. He subsequently was stationed at Wheelock Mission, and died at Washington, Arkansas, in 1869.

The letter written by Charles C. Copeland to his family, with an introductory statement by Mr. Combs and Goodwin follows:

-Editor

#### A LETTER FROM STOCKBRIDGE STATION

The great hinterland beyond the Mississippi was regarded by settled New Englanders in the early decades of the nineteenth century as a "benighted and howling wilderness." It was therefore quite an undertaking to leave the organized and orderly life of a western Massachusetts township and travel two thousand miles to become a missionary to the Choctaw Indians. Yet the New England missionaries made many contributions to the life of the Five Civilized Tribes. Typical of these earnest, carefully trained, and often very young ministers and teachers was Charles C. Copeland (1818-1869) of Colrain, Massachusetts, who worked for several years as assistant to the Reverend Cyrus Byington at Stockbridge Station in the old Choctaw Nation. The following letter, recently presented by Mrs. Minna Copeland Peck, a descendant of Charles C. Copeland, was written by Copeland to his family not long after his arrival at Stockbridge Station. This interesting document, reflects the dedication of the missionaries to their work, and graphically pictures the life of the times.

*Colrain, Massachusetts*

William W. Combs, Jr.

Ralph W. Goodwin

Stockbridge Station

Choctaw Nation

Nov. 29, 1842

Dear Parents,

Your very affectionate letter Post marked Oct 30 comes safe to my hand Nov 23rd. I had begun to think that Uncle Sam was in fault, or that you had quite forgotten your absent son. I had ridden across the river to the P. O. a great many times to hear from you, but at last a letter came to me. . . .

<sup>1</sup>This was Eagle Town post office on the east side of the Mountain Fork, established on July 1, 1834, Rev. Loring S. Williams, postmaster. At this location near the Big Cypress Tree, McCurtain County, Mr. Williams had founded Bethesda Mission, and provided the first school in the Eagle Town community.—Ed.

Very soon after I wrote to Mr E. [Brother Edgar] from Ft Towson I came home, and the people not being ready for school, I went to work. Mr Hyington bought an old house, or not an old one, but vacant, and I helped him move it to his place and then helped raise it. Afterwards I covered & inclosed it (i. e.) luted it so as to shut the cracks between the logs, laid the floor, put in a window and moved into it two weeks ago.

I have a good house in my possession, but it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m's from Mr W's, and I did not want to keep bachelor's hall nor take to myself a wife of the land so I built the one in which I now sit to write, and a very comfortable one it is. The chimney is made of mud & oven-wood,<sup>2</sup> laid up just as I used to build cob-houses, and the house is made in the same fashion. The hearth & joins [are] of mud but it is not to be despised in any way. Few in this country live better. The size 12 ft by 12 inside. My work is to fat or feed the logs and two horses, cut wood and grind the corn for our bread, on the steel mill, a grid of half a peck every morning, keep school and study all I can. Evenings I devote mostly to study, reading or writing. Candles are not too scarce here and if they were we have the pitch pine the country affords, so I can be provided for at any rate. My school is small but pleasant. Have but few full blood Cherokees.

My health has not been so good for 6 years as it is at present and has been since the middle of Sept., from which time till Nov. 7th I labored daily. Excepting a few days I was laid by on account of an accident. In trying to stop some running horses, my feet caught in some briars and I fell flat on my face, and the wagon loaded with sixteen barrels of corn ran over me, as a sailor would say, from stem to stern, from foot to head. I thought at first I was seriously injured. Arterial motion was stopped. I could breathe [sic] with great difficulty, and was nearly blind, could not walk or ride on a horse but a few steps before everything was all of the same color, but after half an hour the motion of the heart became regular. Day came back and I rode home . . . . Not entirely recovered from the bruise yet.

Pine Ridge where Miss Anna is located is 50 miles from this station in a westerly direction or a little North of West. It is one mile from Doaksville where are 3 or 7 stores, a Tavern, Church & 2 Doctors, and 2 miles from Ft. Towson which is this side of Pine Ridge. . . .

The crops here are abundant. Some planters have grown more cotton than they can possibly take care of. One of our neighbors has raised 2000 or more bushels of corn & 35 or 40 bales of cotton, 200 lbs to the bale, 700 bushels of sweet potatoes and yams, and other vegetables in proportion. I love sweet potatoes & yams dearly. Nothing better for dinner. . . .

I have seen something of the world, its wealth, pomp & show, many of the gay & thoughtless crowd, that is passing rapidly from this to the eternal world. I have passed a variety of scenes in the short years of my life, but I have never been located to suit my own notions better than I am now, all things considered. I have my labor to perform, and when my work is done, I can read till time to retire, then lay down in peace and sleep. We have breakfast by candle light usually, and then we are ready for business. I tell you Mother, it all goes on nice, and if you could only come here and see me, stay a few weeks, eat some of our yams & corn bread, how much good

<sup>2</sup>This type of stick and mud chimney was called a "cat chimney" on the frontier of Arkansas west. It was built of split pieces of hard wood of uniform size and length (about 20 to 24 inches long), such as were used in making a fire in an iron oven, an invention placed in the wall of a fireplace in early days. The pieces of wood for a "cat chimney" were laid crosswise to the desired height of the chimney, and the spaces between each filled with a mud "cat"—a roll of mud or clay about the size and length of a man's forearm. Allowance, of course, was made for the fireplace which was well plastered with mud, at the lower side of the chimney opening inside the house.—Ed.

it would do me! Wont you come Mother? It is only 2500 miles here. If we live a few years more, say 2 or 3, we shall see each other again, but if not I hope we shall have laid our treasures up in heaven. My soul longs to be free from the fetters of sin! How it clogs the soul! when it would soar away from earth and by faith behold things invisible to mortal eyes. How sin dims the sight! and we can only see as through a glass darkly. But the time is coming when we "shall see as we are seen and know as we are known"—Pray for me that I may be faithful . . . . .

This is from your unworthy son,

Chas. C. Copeland

[The following is a note to Copeland's brother Harvey, written vertically across the face of the letter to his parents.]

Br Harvey,

I began to write to Father & Mother and kept on till I had filled the sheet anyway, but I'll (write) you a few words crosswise. I am glad that you wrote to me. As water is to the thirsty soul, so is news from a far country. . . . .

Our people are trying to do something for themselves as well as they know how but they make poor work I assure you. A nation is long in emerging from the darkness of heathenism to an enlightened state and it will be long before this people can be called enlightened. My heart sometimes bleeds for the Redman as I look around me and see the poor, ignorant, stupid, degraded creatures. Ah! they must become extinct. Another race will shoot up to fill their places and the time will come when the sun will not shine on one of the Aborigines of our own dear country. Among this people may be found many without even a blanket to sleep on, and their houses are open & cold. They are exposed, having no shoes and thin clothes. Many take cold, then pleurisy or lung fever carries them off.

This is the great reason that they are decreasing so rapidly. But the Choctaws are well provided for compared with some of the wild Indians. In the winter a vast many children die. A few are like the pine knots in our forests which neither rotted nor burned and can endure nothing in the form of suffering. But it is bed time, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock. Good night.

Monday morn, Nov 28

Yesterday I attended S. S. [Sunday School] and Choctaw meeting, and spent the rest of the day in reading. I usually get very little rest on the sabbath day. S. S. in the morning, then Choctaw meeting, and English meeting in the afternoon, so that I do not get home till night. Saturdays I have no school and that is the only day of rest for me, and then I have many things to do so that in fact I have no day of rest, but my work is not very severe so some have to perform.

The weather has been very mild during the fall season till two weeks ago when we had something of a freeze and it has frozen some every night since. I find that I need almost as many clothes in this country as I did at the North in cold weather, but in the hot weather, any clothing seems to be a burden. As to worldly things, I lack nothing here. I have all that I wish for and my health is good. Mr Byington is a good physician, has many calls in cases of sickness . . . . . He is one of the best of men and I hope to improve much by his society and conversation. He preaches in Choctaw and understands their language as well as the best of them. . . . .

I am pursuing the study of Ecclesiastical History and am almost ready to take up the study of Chabta . . . . . in a systematic manner.<sup>3</sup> I am able

<sup>3</sup> Rev. C. C. Copeland was author of a tract, "Come to Jesus", published in Choctaw by the American Tract Society, 1869. His paper on "Terms of Relationship of the Choctaw and Chickasaw" was used by L. H. Morgan in *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family* (Washington, 1871), referred to in James C. Pilling, *Bibliography of the Muskogean Languages* (Washington, 1899).—Ed.

to converse some in Choctaw now but cannot understand a great deal. Can read & understand more than I can tell. I shall not forget my friends nor come to pray for them. Remember me to all the children and if I ever see them again I will tell them a story about the Choctaws and other things.

Your brother as ever,  
C. C. Copeland

### A LETTER FROM A U. S. MARSHAL IN 1889

Interesting comments on life in the new Oklahoma Country just after the Opening are given in a letter written by W. C. Jones, U. S. Marshal, from Guthrie on April 29, 1889, to his wife, Etta Jones, at home in Iola Kansas. This three page letter in bold, clear handwriting, on the letterhead stationery of "John M. Galloway, Attorney at Law and U. S. Commissioner," has been presented as a gift to the Oklahoma Historical Society collections by Mr. Howard Jones, Billings, Oklahoma, son of the early U. S. Marshal. Such original material is rare in historical records that are being preserved. The letter from Marshal W. C. Jones follows, with some notes on his life sent by Mr. Howard Jones:

Will practice before the Land Office at Guthrie and Kingfisher, and the Federal Court at Muscogee.

**JOHN M. GALLOWAY**  
Attorney At Law  
—and—  
U. S. Commissioner

Collections made in all parts of the Territory.  
*Guthrie, Indian Territory, April 29, 1889*

My Dear Etta

I know you feel that I have neglected writing too long but my excuse is that things have been in such a terrible confusion and not having any place to write that it was almost impossible. I have been almost all over the territory, and witnessed the scramble for houses both in the towns and in the country. This town (Guthrie) is one of the typical western towns. There is over 50 gambling houses. The town only one week old and claim 15000 inhabitants. Teats and Shanties are their residents. Little houses no larger than our kitchen rent for \$10.00 per day. One house that cost about 600 dollars rents for \$145.00 per month or \$1560.00 per year.

I am in tip top health never felt better in my life. Eat three meals per day and am always hungry. Sleep in a tent and am very dirty. It is impossible to keep clean. I just came up from Oklahoma City where I saw the Iola Ladies they have all got a fine lot and are happy. There has not been a single man killed in the territory since I come down. I never saw a community more orderly with the exceptions of the gambling houses and they are orderly although they are poor deluded fools who patronize them. No people are more orderly than these people, and I am disgusted with the newspapers that are continually reporting such sensational lies. There is not one word of truth in what they say regarding the lawlessness. I will try and be at home in a few days by Thursday or Friday. Everything is all right with me and I hope all is well at home. My kindest love to you all, with a kiss.

(signed) W. C. Jones

Notes:

**WILLIAM CLARK JONES, U. S. MARSHAL IN 1889.**  
Guthrie, Indian Territory.

August 11, 1830—Born near Broadhead, Racine County, Wisconsin. Reared on farm. Attended University at Madison year or two special course engineering & mathematics.

1860—With his father and family moved to Allen County, Kansas, where

- his father had bought land near Iola.
- July 24, 1863—Enlisted in 3rd Kansas Infantry, Commissioned 1st Lieutenant, later promoted to Captain in 10th Kansas and later Major in Civil War.
- August 30, 1865—Wounded out close of War. Practiced engineering as a surveyor and other.
- October 20, 1868—Re-enlisted in 10th Kansas Volunteers. Served as Major and later Lieutenant Colonel under General Sheridan in Indian wars, Kansas, Texas and Indian Territory. In episode to liberate two white women.
- 1883—Appointed warden of Kansas Penitentiary.
- 1884—Delegate to Chicago National Democratic Convention where he was an active supporter of Grover Cleveland for President.
- 1885—Appointed U. S. Marshal district of Kansas by President Cleveland.
- 1886—Was at Guthrie at the Opening of Oklahoma. His successor under the incoming Republican Administration had not yet been appointed.
- 1890—Chairman, State Central Committee Democratic Party, Kansas.
- 1893—Failed to obtain re-appointment under Cleveland's second term as U. S. Senator Martin and faction had their own candidate.
- September 24, 1895—Was killed while visiting one of his farms near Iola, Kansas, by run-away horse.

—Howard Jones  
Billings, Oklahoma

#### AT BRAMAN IN THE CHEROKEE STRIP SIXTY YEARS AGO

Through the interest of the Reverend Wm. B. Bowlers, First M. E. Church, Braman, Oklahoma, the following letter with added notes has come to the Editorial Department, written by W. E. Youngmeyer, 660 South Quentin, Wichita 17, Kansas, to Mrs. Fred J. Schwarz, Treasurer of Sumpter Grange #89, Braman, in Kay County, Oklahoma:<sup>1</sup>

Wichita March 7, 27

To the Members of the Grange Greetings.

Thank you so much for the letter and the card with all the names attached. Have read them over and over to see if I couldn't recall some of the names. The name of H. M. Scott is the most familiar. That is quite a common name. I was well acquainted with Clay Seal and his Father who lived on the Town Ship line or near the low water bridge. Clay built the first Hardware Store in Braman. Then there was a Mr. Scott over towards Nardin whom I did some carpenter work (don't recall his given name) and Charley Scott who lived South of Braman. Rather think a lot of you folks knew or heard of Charley Scott. He farmed quite extensively. He had more mules than any body in the country. Distance from home didn't seem to make any difference. Charley was quite a trader. The last time I seen him was here at the Stock Yards. That wasn't so many years ago. Never seen so many cocks burs on sheep. He told me he bought the sheep over east of Blackwell. It was late in the afternoon his sheep were still unshod.

Wish I could have been at your meeting on Jan. 19 when the subject of conversation was old times. However that is just wishful thinking.

Speaking of the Chikaski river being low I seen it one time when I wish it had been much lower. In going to Braman one day the water was about normal, I heard while in town there had been a heavy rain in Kansas on the Chikaski water shed. When I got to the river on my way home the

<sup>1</sup>The first Post Office called Braman was established in Kay County, Oklahoma Territory, on April 11, 1898, with Jerry Crowley as Postmaster (George H. Shirk, "First Post Offices in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXX, No. 1 (Spring, 1952).—Ed.

river was really booming. I was driving one horse hitched to a top buggy. As I neared the west side the current was quite strong. The bank on the west side was high and roadway quite narrow. I was too far down stream to hit the roadway. In turning the water rushed in the buggy. About everything washed out the backend including my groceries.

You said in your letter of the change in the country schools. Am wondering if the Triumph School three miles west of Braman, the Battle Ax three miles south, and the Brown Union another three miles South (This school was north of Braman. I am also consolidated? The reason I mention these three schools are the one's I built. With the help of about all the men in the districts. There wasn't much money in the Strip in those days. All the help was volunteer. I recall one day there were fifteen men on Brown Union. I had just finished my apprenticeship this year before in Illinois and hadn't had any experience working that many men and all inexperienced. It kept me on the jump to keep them busy.

The family I boarded with while working on the schoolhouse were Mr. and Mrs. Julian. Their claim was across the road to the south. A neighbor and more "comfy" dug-out I had never seen. They were a young couple with two small children. Among one of the first houses I built was for a little Frenchman and a more congenial man I never had the pleasure of meeting. His name was Jim La Force. His claim was south of the Battle Ax School House just across Doe Creek. Am wondering if those people are known to any of the members of the Grange?

Do you know just how or why the name Battle Ax was chosen? The people of the District met at the school house one day to choose a name. A good many names were suggested but there was no agreement. John Armstrong and his wife who lived across the road to the east, John suggested [jokingly] the name Battle Ax. Believe it or not the name stuck.

The High School band of Blackwell that was selected by the State of Oklahoma to go the inauguration of President must feel proud and they have a right to be. Your letter arrived on the day of inauguration. I was watching T. V. Was anxious to see the parade but was disappointed. The parade was late as you may know if you were listening on T. V. Our T. V. went off the air at 5 P. M. while the parade was still in progress.

Quince Brown had the first grocery store in Braman. His claim was a few miles south of town. He was our first Representative in the State Legislature. A very fine man he came to Wichita good many years ago. Was in the grocery business for a number of years. He passed away some five or six years ago. Quince told me of an amusing incident while in the grocery business here (Braman). Bert Woodruff, whose claim was in the Battle Ax School district, came in one day with a wash tub full of eggs. The price he was paying for eggs was 60 cts per dozen. Bert said he wouldn't sell eggs for that price. He carried the eggs out on the sidewalk, got some small paper bags and everybody that came along was given a bag of eggs. I surmise that Bert had been over to Sam Jones's place where he got something that made him feel like a millionaire. (Note: Sam Jones ran a saloon in Braman.)

As tight as money was in those early days Braman supported two saloons. That reminds me of a man by name of Charles Hartgrove. There may be some one among the members of the Grange who knew Charles Hartgrove. If there is he or she can tell you an interesting story of this man.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. H. H. Scott, Braman, relates this incident about Mr. Hartgrove and presumably it is the one Mr. Youngmeyer is thinking of: "One evening Charles Hartgrove was drunk and went to the Methodist Parsonage. He asked the Minister, Rev. B. C. Wolfe, to pray for him. The Minister refused but said that he would pray for him when he was sober. The Minister's wife stepped in and said she would pray for him. She knelt on her knees and the man was converted. He never again took a drink of liquor. He loved to tell this story at every opportunity."



My good wife used to say it was always hard to get me to go anywhere by harder to get me to leave. This letter reminds me it is time I was leaving. Allow me to say one more thing. It will not interest you folks, but is of great interest to me. My youngest son is being transferred from Calgary, Canada to Caracas, Venezuela (South America) by the Texas Oil Company. He was transferred from Tulsa, Oklahoma four years ago to Canada. He has been with the Texas Co. ever since he finished school in W. U. (Wichita University). He is forty seven, he is leaving New York today (2/7) by air on a non-stop flight 7½ hours to Caracas. Another son passed away on his thirty seventh birthday twelve years ago. He died of Leukemia, a very rare disease at that time.

Your letter was so nicely written. Am almost ashamed to send my letter. The verse on the card is beautiful. Thanking you all so much.

Fraternally yours,  
W. W. Youngmeyer

P. S. Speaking of Ed Johnson. I recall wagon loads of wheat more than a block long waiting to weigh on Ed's scales. Incidentally, in looking over some old cards I ran across a photograph of the Main Street of Breman. I mailed it to Ed. It was dated 1908. The card was evidently enclosed in a letter as there was no post mark. Think the Shoffner's sent it to me. They were tenants on the farm N. of Breman about that time.

#### ANNUAL OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOUR FOR 1957

Eastern Oklahoma is a region replete with historic spots, and the Oklahoma Historical Society Tour for 1957, under the direction of Mr. R. G. Miller, and the leadership of Gen. Wm. S. Key, visited many of these spots.

On the morning of Thursday May 16th, the Society's caravan left the Historical Society Building at 7:05. Due to down town transportation difficulties, Mrs. Logan Billingsley, and her son Bobby of Katonah, New York, arrived at the Historical Society Building three or four minutes after the caravan moved out. It was necessary for the two New Yorkers to go by taxi cab to the old Sac and Fox Agency site, south of Stroud, before catching up with the tourists.

The entire group was served squaw bread and coffee by Mr. and Mrs. Don Whistler at the Sac and Fox Agency location. A visit to the Whistler house of that vicinity proved most interesting. Members of the Pottawatomie County Historical Society and of the Lincoln County Historical Society were on hand to visit with the travelers.

It was a rather long ride from the Stroud vicinity to the Woolaroc Museum, northeast of Barnsdall, but the three big busses, and several cars of the caravan brought 135 tourists to that fine Museum by 11:30 a. m. The Frank Phillips Foundation officers, governing body of the Woolaroc Museum, were hosts to the tourists for lunch. The main course was buffalo steaks. A tour of the Museum followed the lunch hour.

From Woolaroc, the caravan traveled southeastward to the location of the old Friends Mission, north of Skiatook, and at this place the visitors were met by Mr. Milton Patrick, Mayor of

Skiatook, and a group of local citizens. Several of those in the group had attended the Mission, which was a school with boarding department for a fifty mile area, established in the early 1880's.

As the busses rolled along the road to Skiatook, the tourists could see preparations being made for high water that was expected soon in the nearby creeks. The following day, word was received that the roads over which the Tour had passed, in the Skiatook vicinity were under water.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, a stop was made at Leonard, where the site of Pleasant Porter's home could be seen. Muddy roads prevented the busses from going to the exact site of Porter's home. William Porter, grandson of Pleasant Porter, was present and gave an interesting interview conducted by Colonel George Shirk.

The caravan arrived at Western Hills Lodge, east of Wagoner, at about 6:00 p. m. Dinner was served in the main dining room, and a group from Muskogee furnished the program. Mr. Kelly Brown, and Mr. R. M. Mountcastle, members of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, who live in Muskogee, were in charge of the program. Following several musical numbers, Mr. Malcolm E. Rosser, veteran Muskogee Attorney, made the address of the evening. The theme of the program was the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, which is located near Muskogee. General Key introduced all of those in the Society's traveling party.

The second day of the Tour found the caravan rolling through the beautiful hills in the Tahlequah region. A stop was made at the outskirts of Westville, and the group was met by a number of citizens of that community, who served doughnuts and coffee. Mr. and Mrs. G. Dismukes, editors of the *Westville Reporter*, were in charge of arrangements. The tourists were especially grateful for the hot coffee, because a drizzling rain was falling at the time.

It was only a few miles to the north until the old Baptist Mission was reached. This church organization was established in 1838. It was one of the very earliest Oklahoma churches.

Continuing northward, Dripping Springs was reached by 11:00 o'clock. Here the tourists visited the falls at the springs, and clambered around over the rocky gorge. On the way to Honey Creek Bridge, the Historical Marker for the grave sites of Gen Stand Watie and Major Ridge were passed and pointed out.

One of the most enjoyable events of the entire Tour took place at Baker's Cafe, on the banks of Honey Creek, which is only a short distance south of Grove. A group of High School youngsters from Grove put on an excellent entertainment of singing and dancing. A talk on the anthropology of that region was made by W. A. Doel. The fish dinner was excellent.

After a short journey to the northeast, the Old Cayuga Split-log Mission church site was visited. This old church is being

carefully preserved, and local citizens conducted a brief program here, which was interesting to the tourists. The church was completed in 1896. The guiding spirit in promoting its erection was Mathias Splitlog, noted Seneca Indian industrialist who had a part in the building of Kansas City, Missouri, before the War between the States and later founded the thriving community of Cayuga in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Retracing their route for several miles, and then turning to the west, the busses arrived at the Grand Lake dock site for the *Cherokee Queen*. The group went aboard this boat, and were taken for a three hour trip on the lake, during which dinner was served. Despite the rain that was falling, the trip proved to be an enjoyable interlude.

About 7:30 p. m. everyone was back on the busses. The site of the Battle of Cabin Creek (1864) was passed up due to wet ground as the caravan traveled south. A night ride over the Spavinaw Hills and down the Grand River Valley brought the travelers back to Western Hills Lodge.

After a good night's sleep, the tourists were ready for the return trip to the starting point at the Historical Society Building in Oklahoma City. But there was a good day of travel and sight seeing before reaching that destination.

In the vicinity of Morris, the busses were stopped so that all might view the historic site of Council Hill, a wooded hill south on the Okmulgee-Melutosh County line. This was the location of the first Creek Capitol, and long remained a council ground for the Creek Nation.

When the tourists arrived in Okmulgee at 11:00 a. m., everyone visited the Museum, located in the old Capitol building of the Creek Nation. Judge Edgar S. Vaught had quite a thrill from sitting in the chair that had once been occupied by the Chief Justice of the Creek Nation.

Lunch was provided at the dining hall of the Oklahoma School of Technology, located at the outskirts of Okmulgee. Mr. Keith Covell, Director of the School, welcomed the tourists to Okmulgee and the School. Mr. P. T. Gilmer was Master of Ceremonies for the program that was presented. Mr. R. G. Miller, Tour Director, was the chief speaker of the program. A film was shown describing the work of the Oklahoma School of Technical Training.

The buses came to a stop in front of the Historical Society Building at 7:00 p. m. on Saturday May 18th.

From the many reports and comments received from those who made the Tour, this must be designated as one of the best Tours ever sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

—Elmer L. Fraker