

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

THE LIFE OF JUDGE ROBERT L. WILLIAMS,
BOOK PUBLICATION

Members of the Oklahoma Historical Society will no doubt be interested in a book, *Frontier Judge: The Life of Robert Lee Williams*, written by Dr. Edward Everett Dale and Dr. James D. Morrison, both members of the Board of Directors of the Society. The book will be issued early next year by the Torch Press of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at \$5.00. Since the edition is limited to less than 1,500 copies to be sold, those wanting to be sure of getting a copy should send in an order to the Torch Press at an early date. Those ordering copies in advance of publication will be given a discount of ten percent on the price of the book after publication. Judge Williams was for many years the President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and very active in its affairs, after his term as Governor of the State. He was largely responsible for founding *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, as well as for the planning and construction of the Historical Building.

MAP OF OKLAHOMA TERRITORY IN 1898

A recent gift presented by Mr. Hubert Lively of Oklahoma to the collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society is an old out-of-print map of Oklahoma and Indian territories published by the Rand McNally Company in 1898. This map is here reproduced in *The Chronicles* since it is unusually accurate for that period in Oklahoma history and gives many features not found on published maps of the two territories. Counties in Oklahoma Territory are shown before the opening of the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Reservation, the area marked "I" being the Wichita-Caddo Reservation, both reservations opened to settlement in 1901. The boundaries of the Indian nations and the Quapaw Agency tribes, northeast, are shown in the Indian Territory. All lands where U. S. surveys had been completed by 1898 are marked by township lines with the Indian Meridian and Base Line shown, the intersection of which is the Initial Point from which all surveys



(Print from Rand McNally Map, 1898, in Oklahoma Historical Society Collections)

Map showing counties in Oklahoma Territory and Indian nations in Indian Territory, with U. S. surveyed lands completed by 1898.

in the state are calculated. Geographic meridians of West Longitude and parallels of North Latitude are also indicated and numbered. Many towns, rivers, creeks and other important and little known features are given, besides a listing of railroads in operation in the two territories with the offices of the different express companies indicated by numbers at the towns named along the railroad routes.

HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA EMBLEMS

The Name Oklahoma

The name *Oklahoma* was suggested for the Indian Territory in 1886, by Allen Wright, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation for all the country within the boundaries of the present state. This name means "Red People," originating from two words in the Choctaw language, *okla* for "people," and *homma* or *humma* for "red," an expression synonymous with the English term "Indian" (or "Indians") there being no word for "Indian" in the Choctaw language.

The occasion for naming the Indian Territory the "Territory of Oklahoma" occurred at the close of the War between the States. The Indian nations—so-called "Five Civilized Tribes"—that had recently sided with the Southern Confederacy during the War were ordered by officials in Washington to make new treaties ceding their western lands to the United States for the settlement of other Indian tribes. Further provision among other stipulations in each of these treaties was for the organization of the Indian Territory under federal law, the legislative body of which was to be made up of representatives elected by all the Indian nations and tribes within the Territory. This territorial organization was to pave the way for an Indian state in the Union, something that had been promised the Delaware tribe before the removal west, by treaty as early as 1778. While each of the Indian treaties made at Washington in 1866 provided for the organization of the Indian Territory, the Choctaw-Chickasaw Treaty—made jointly by these two cousin tribes—gave more details for the plan. One was that the U.S. Superintendent of

Indian Affairs was to be "the Executive of the said Territory, with the title of 'Governor of the Territory of Oklahoma.'"¹

The name was suggested one day when the draft of the Choctaw-Chickasaw treaty was being written during a meeting of the delegates from all the Five Civilized Tribes and Government officials. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs asked, "What would you call your territory?" Allen Wright, one of the Choctaw delegates quickly replied, "Oklahomma." The name was written *Oklahomma* in the new treaty, and was thus for the first time applied to the Indian Territory.

The name became popular and appeared in many bills introduced in Congress seeking the organization of the Territory. Finally, an Act of Congress on May 2, 1890, provided the organization of the western part of the Indian Territory as the "Territory of Oklahoma." The domains of the Five Civilized Tribes and the small area northeast belonging to the Quapaw Agency tribes remained known as the Indian Territory until November 16, 1907, when the "Twin Territories" were joined together and admitted as the State of Oklahoma in the Union.

The State Flag

The Tenth State Legislature specified that the State Flag of Oklahoma should have the following design:²

"A sky blue field with a circular rawhide shield of the American Indian Warrior, decorated with six painted crosses on the face thereof, the lower half of the shield to be fringed with seven pendant eagle feathers and superimposed upon the face of the shield a calumet or peace pipe, crossed at right angles by an olive branch."

This design had been selected by the Oklahoma Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution from many submitted in a statewide contest carried on by this patriotic organization. The Committee in charge of the contest, appointed

¹ *Constitution and Laws of the Choctaw Nation, with the Treaties of 1855, 1865 and 1866.* Joseph P. Folsom, compiler, Chahita Tamaha, 1869 (Wm. P. Lyon & Son, Printers and Publishers, New York City), p. 44.

² *Oklahoma Session Laws, 1925, "State Flag,"* p. 340.

by Mrs. Andrew R. Hickam, the State Regent of the D.A.R., named the design by Mrs. George Fluke, Jr., as the best, the sketch of which is described above.

Mrs. Fluke had consulted with Dr. Joseph B. Thoburn of the Oklahoma Historical Society, about a suitable State Flag, the need for one having been pointed out by him to Mrs. Hickam. A large framed, silk flag on exhibit in the Museum of the Oklahoma Historical Society at that time had been carried, according to tradition, as the standard of Choctaw troops in the Confederate Army during the War between the States. This flag now in the Confederate Memorial Hall of the Historical Society has a blue field with a large, round shield-like device at the center shown in red bordered with white and superimposed by a white peace pipe, bow and two arrows all crossing at centers. This device had been taken originally from the design of the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation adopted by the Choctaws in 1860. Mr. Thoburn suggested to Mrs. Fluke that the device on the old Choctaw flag could be worked up into a design for a State Flag having a blue field; since Oklahoma was the Red Man's state it would be appropriate to use a sketch of an Indian shield as a central theme of the device.

Near the Choctaw flag hung an old, Osage Indian shield which is still on exhibit in the Museum of the Historical Society. This circular shield is of thick buffalo hide with several small, painted crosses dimly seen on the face, and eagle feathers pendant at the edge of the shield. Mr. Thoburn suggested that using this Osage shield as a model in a sketch the peace emblem of the red and white races could be drawn at the center: the Indian calumet or peace pipe crossed by the white man's olive branch.

Mrs. Fluke's finished design met with enthusiasm everywhere, and was adopted by law for the State Flag. This new flag superseded the Oklahoma banner that had been adopted by the State Legislature in 1911. The State Flag first seen in that year consisted "of a red field with a five pointed star of white, edged with blue, in the center thereof, with figures '46' in blue, in the center of the star." This Oklahoma flag with a red field lacked individuality and reminded people in the

early 1920's of the red, Russian flag carried by the Bolsheviki government in Russia. Very few citizens of Oklahoma at that time knew that a State Flag had ever been adopted by a State Legislature.

An original painting of the new Oklahoma Flag by Mrs. Fluke hangs on the walls of the Library Reading Room in the Historical Society, with a legend for the colors used in the Flag: the field is sky blue (if in water colors, cobalt with a little white); shield, buckskin (light tan); small crosses on shield (five are seen), darker tan; thongs lacing the edge of the shield, the same darker tan; pendant eagle feathers (seven on edge of shield), white tipped with dark brown; calumet stem, pale yellow, with pipe bowl pipestone red; pendant tassel decoration at end of stem, red; and olive branch, gray green.

The symbolism of the Oklahoma State Flag was given originally by Dr. Thoburn as follows:

"The blue field signifies loyalty and devotion; the shield implies defensive or protective warfare when justifiable; the small crosses on the shield are the Indians graphic sign for stars and may indicate lofty ideals or a purpose for high endeavor; the shield thus surmounted by, but always subservient to, the calumet and the olive branch, betoken a predominant love of peace by a united people."

The Eighteenth State Legislature in 1941 adopted a resolution providing that the word "Oklahoma" in white letters be placed underneath the shield or design on the official State Flag of the State of Oklahoma.

The State Flower

An act of the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1908 provided "That the Mistletoe is hereby designated and adopted as the Floral Emblem of the State of Oklahoma."

There was a lot of sentiment connected with the mistletoe in the memories of old timers in the Territory. It had been used to cover the graves of their loved ones who died during the hard winters after the Run of 1889, for the green leaves and white berries lasted a long time marking the new made graves. And at Christmas time bunches of mistletoe served

as decoration suggesting the mystery and beauty of the season.

The mistletoe had been adopted as the "State flower" by an act of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma in 1893. By this act, Oklahoma was the first commonwealth in the Union to adopt an official "State Flower."

The State Tree

The Sixteenth Legislature adopted the redbud tree as the official tree of the State of Oklahoma by Senate Joint Resolution No. 5. The Act was approved by Governor Ernest W. Marland on March 30, 1937.

Oklahoma State Colors

Green and white were adopted as the State colors for Oklahoma, by the Fifth State Legislature, under a concurrent resolution of the House and the Senate in 1915. These colors had been recommended by the Ohoyohoma Club composed of wives of the members of the Legislature in that year.

The State Bird

The beautiful Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is the State bird, the most recent Oklahoma emblem adopted by an act of the Twenty-second Legislature in May, 1951. Garden Clubs, Audubon Society and school children in Oklahoma contributed their approval to the selection of this quiet bird with its beautiful gray and shades of pink plumage and long, sleek tail. A fine description of the Flycatcher says that "its tail twice as long as its body gives the bird an eye-catching gracefulness, a fitting beauty for the Oklahoma skies."

(M.H.W.)

SANTA FE DEPOT AT GUTHRIE IN 1889,

A CORRECTION

The Chronicles of Oklahoma for Summer, 1957 (Vol. XXXV, No. 2) carries a print of the railway station at Guthrie in 1889, the caption of which should read "Santa Fe Railway Station, Guthrie, at the Opening in 1889." An error occurred in the printing which identified the depot as the "Frisco Railway Station." This view of the Santa Fe Railway Station at Guthrie in 1889 is from an original photograph presented by L. Hayes Buxton, M.D., LL.D. to the Historical Society collections.

The Santa Fe—the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company—projected the building of the line southward from Arkansas City, Kansas, across the Indian Territory in 1884. The surveys were made, and the actual grading of the road-bed was begun in the summer of 1886. Track was completed to the Canadian River in April, 1887. When the road was opened for business in the summer, stations between the Kansas line and the Canadian River were: Willow Springs, Ponca (Indian Agency), Red Rock, Mendota, Alfred (Mulhall), Guthrie, Edmond, Oklahoma Station (Oklahoma City), Norbeck (Moore), Norman, Walker and Purcell.

A subsidiary of the Santa Fe, known as the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway Company, had built northward from Red River to meet the Kansas Division of the Santa Fe at Purcell, thus completing a through-line across the Indian Territory, in 1887. Some towns along the railroad between Red River and the Canadian were namesakes of towns in the suburbs west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where some of the railroad stockholders lived. These names are included in the Oklahoma towns of Ardmore, Berwyn, Marietta, Overbrook, Wayne and Wynnewood. In Oklahoma, Wynnewood is pronounced "Winnie-wood."

A HISTORY OF KEYSTONE IN PAWNEE COUNTY RECORDED

The Oklahoma Historical Society now has a fine high-fidelity tape recorder with radio-tape recorder combinations that makes possible the preservation of historical data which might otherwise be lost.

The successful recording on an hour-length tape was made, giving much of the history of Keystone, in Pawnee County, during a meeting of old settlers in the region, on March 9, 1957. The Editor carrying on special historical research and Miss Katherine Ringland, Assistant Curator in charge of the Union Army Memorial Hall in the Historical Society, made the trip to Keystone especially for this interesting meeting. It was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs.

Adrian Swift, long time residents of Keystone. Mr. Swift, well known in the educational field in Oklahoma as the President of the State Association of School Board Members and in the oil industry of Pawnee and Tulsa counties, called the meeting at his home to record some of the history of Keystone, the site of which will be inundated with the completion of the Keystone Dam now building on the Arkansas River below the town.

Mr. Swift served as the director of the recording made at this informal meeting of old settlers who had lived around and in Keystone since 1903, some having made their homes in the region as early as the 1880's. Those present who gave notes and stories on the history of the town were Mr. Reed Ackley, Mr. Arch Stoneman, Mr. Cal Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Stevens, Mr. T. W. Duck and his sister, Mrs. Lorena Duck O'Keefe, Mrs. Merle Zickafoos and Mr. Grant Jones who was ninety-four years old in August, 1957.

Mr. Swift outlined briefly the "firsts" in the history of Keystone that should be discussed, and each person present contributed in turn any note of interest that he or she had in mind. Reed Ackley's father, Truman Ackley, operated the first ferry—the "U. S. Ferry"—across the Arkansas in the vicinity of Keystone, south of the mouth of the Cimarron, in the 1880's. Truman Ackley staked a homestead claim the day after "the Run into the Cherokee Strip," in 1893, the Keystone region lying in the old Outlet lands. Arch Stoneman's father made the "Run" on the day of the opening, and staked a homestead. The first stage line and "Star Route" that carried the mail to Tulsa was put into operation soon after the Run of 1893, from Perry via Pawnee, Cleveland, Leroy, crossing the Arkansas at the Meyer Ferry. The first post office at Keystone was established in 1890, and Leroy and Senett were early-day neighboring towns. Apalachia was established as a post office when the first railroad—"the Katy"—was built in the vicinity, about 1901-3, this being the point to which whiskey and other liquors were shipped and then hauled by wagon or carried on skiffs up the river to Keystone that boasted several saloons since it was located just inside the line of Oklahoma Territory.

Mr. Duck and Mrs. O'Keefe told about the early school, and gave interesting stories as the history telling progressed. Mrs. Merle Zickafoos was the daughter of Dr. James Besser who came as the first doctor in this part of the country, in 1882. Dr. Besser practiced at Red Fork and Tulsa, and his son, Bob Besser, was the first white child born in Tulsa.

Mrs. Ira Stevens was a Zickafoos, an early day German family in the Keystone region. She told about the first church there, a "Union Church" built by members of several denominations, Joe Weirman, the saloon keeper, being the largest contributor of money for the good cause. A Dr. Glenn was a doctor in the community, and also served as a preacher though he was known for his love of liquor. Sometimes when he was "deep in his cups," he would preach to the people "telling them not to do as he did but to do as they were told."

Mr. Swift told about the drilling of the first oil well on the Sherman Ackley farm near Keystone thirty-five years ago, and how Ackley exclaimed expressing his long-hoped-for dream, "Well, I guess that means I'm going to get that acreage in the Rio Grande Valley!" when he first saw the oil and gas spouting from the new well. One has to hear the tape recording of all this history on Keystone to get the interesting events and amusing stories told that day at Mr. Swift's home.

(M. H. W.)

RECENT ACCESSIONS IN THE LIBRARY

The following list compiled by Mrs. Edith Mitchell, Cataloger, gives the titles of books accessioned and catalogued in the Library of the Oklahoma Historical Society from July 1, 1956 to July 1, 1957.

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- American Geographical Society. *Review* . . . 1955. New York, N. Y. v. 45. 629 pp.
- American Historical Review. Boyd C. Shafer, Editor. New York, N. Y. Macmillan Company, 1956. v. 61. pp. 1127.
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- American Military Institute. *Military Affairs Journal*. Washington, D. C., 1953. v. 17. 224 pp.
- American Museum of Natural History. *Anthropological papers*. New York, N. Y.: 1956. 402 pp.
- Arkansas Historical Quarterly, 1955. Fayetteville, Ark.: v. 14. 412 pp.
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- Ballenger, Thomas Lee. *Around Tahlequah council fires*. Muskogee, Okla., 1935. 172 pp.
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- British Columbia Historical Quarterly*. Victoria, B. C., 1954. v.18. 282 pp.
- Brown, Mark Herbert. *Before barbed wire*. New York: H. Holt & Co., 1956. 256 pp.
- Brown, Mark Herbert. *The frontier years*. L. A. Huffman, Photographer. New York: H. Holt & Co., 1955. 272 pp.
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- Brayer, Cornet M. *American cattle trails, 1540-1900*. Bayside, N. Y., 1952. 128 pp.
- Bushnell, David Ives. *Tribal migrations east of the Mississippi*. Washington, D. C., 1934. 99 pp.
- Byington, Cyrus. *Dictionary of the Choctaw language*. Washington, D. C., 1915. 611 pp.
- Canadian Historical Review*, 1955. Toronto, Cana. v. 36. 386 pp.
- Carter, Clarence E. *The Territory of Florida, 1821-1824*. Washington, D. C., 1956. 1129 pp.

- Cathey, Cornelius O. *Agricultural development in North Carolina, 1783-1860*. Chapel Hill, N. C., 1956. 229 pp.
- Catholic University of America. *Catholic Historical Review*, 1955-'56. Washington, D. C. v. 41, 512 pp.
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- Davis, Britton. *The truth about Geronimo*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1929. 253 pp.
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- Day & Ullom, Editors. *Autobiography of Sam Houston*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. 298 pp.
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- DeShields, James T. *Cynthia Ann Parker*. St. Louis, 1886. 80 pp.
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- Gellhorn, Walter. *Individual freedom and government restraints*. Baton Rouge, La.: State University Press, 1956. 215 pp.
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- Hickman, J. M. *Songs from the Ozarks and other poems*. Vicksburg, Miss., 1921. 343 pp.
- High, Stanley. *Looking ahead with Latin America*. New York, 1925. 192 pp.
- Hines, Gordon. *True talks from the old 101 ranch*. Oklahoma City: National Printing Co., 1953. 89 pp.
- Holman, Mary L. *Descendants of William Sherman*. Brookline, Mass., 1936. 529 pp.
- Holman, Winifred L. *Descendants of Andrew Everest of York, Maine*. Concord, N. H., 1955. 488 pp.
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- Kansas State Historical Society. *Quarterly*, 1955. Topeka, Kan. 691 pp.
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