

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

NOTES FROM *THE NORTHERN STANDARD*, 1842-1849

EDITED BY JAMES D. MORRISON

In December of 1835 a band of one hundred and seventy-four young men, led by Edwin Morehouse, sailed from New York harbor bound for Texas to aid the Anglo-Americans of that region in their struggle for independence from Mexico.¹ One member of the expedition was a young law student of Massachusetts birth, a cousin several times removed of the inventor of the telegraph; his name was Charles Denny Morse and he would reach the age of twenty-one on January 31, 1836.² The Morehouse command was delayed at Nassau when a British brig-of-war, the *Serpent*, took them into port for investigation on the charge of piracy.³ At this place young Morse, having given his name as Charles D. Morse, observed that the British clerk had written it with a French form as *Charles De Morse*; so pleased was the young man that he used the same spelling until the end of his days.⁴ The British admiralty court soon acquitted the defendants of the freebooting charge and they proceeded to Texas by way of New Orleans, arriving too late to take part in the battle of San Jacinto.⁵

Young De Morse definitely cast his lot with the young Texas republic and was a Texan for the remainder of his days. He served in the Texas army and the Texas navy; he practiced law in Matagorda and Austin; he was stock commissioner under President Mirabeau B. Lamar, having the task of attempting to fund and bond the public debt; and in 1841 and 1842 he was reporter for the Texas House of Representatives, publishing a small daily paper in connection with his other duties.⁶ It was this journalistic effort which led De Morse into the field in which he occupied himself for the rest of his life and earned for himself the posthumous title, "The Father of Texas Journalism."⁷ De Morse, being at variance with many policies of President Sam Houston, desired to change his occupation by 1842. He therefore accepted the invitation of members of the Texas Congress from the Red River district to establish himself in northeast Texas and begin publication of a newspaper.⁸ The result of this decision was the appearance at Clarksville, county

¹ *Encyclopedia of the New West* (Marshall, Texas, 1881), I, 259n; Harvey Lewis Graham, *The Northern Standard, 1842-1848: A Texas Frontier Newspaper* (unpublished master's thesis, The University of Texas, 1928), 1 ff.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Encyclopedia of the New West*, I, 260.

⁵ Graham, *op. cit.*, 1 ff.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 4 ff; *The Northern Standard* (Clarksville, Texas), March 9 and May 8, 1844.

⁷ The current visitor to Clarksville, Texas, may see the cenotaph erected to "Colonel Charles De Morse, the Father of Texas Journalism." His old home is now occupied by his granddaughter, Isabel De Morse Latimer.

⁸ Graham, *op. cit.*, 12.

seat of Red River County, Texas, on August 20, 1842, of the first issue of *The Northern Standard*, a weekly of most exceptional standards for a frontier community.⁹

From the very first Editor De Morse seems to have courted subscriptions, advertisements, and news from the Indian nations to the north of Red River. He and his readers were chiefly interested in events at the United States government posts of Fort Towson and Fort Washita and the settlements nearby those establishments, for the citizens of northeast Texas were closely connected economically and socially, although not politically, with the partblood Indians and the whites who inhabited the Indian country. The citizenship of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, or rather the citizens of those Nations who resided along the Red River, depended upon the same arteries of traffic, the River and the military roads, as did the citizenship of north Texas for communication with the East. Both profited by the influx of settlers to Texas when it became apparent that the Lone Star Republic was to become a state in the Union. Both benefited from the increased traffic through the region when gold was discovered in California. Both used slave labor on big plantations and had the same general attitudes toward the problems of the peculiar institution. The result was that at least until 1849, when *The Choctaw Telegraph* was established at Doaksville, *The Northern Standard* was the organ which best articulated enlightened public sentiment for the upper Red River valley, for dwellers in the Indian country as well as in northeast Texas.¹⁰ There are no subscription lists of *The Northern Standard* available which would demonstrate just how widespread was its coverage of the Indian country, but inferences may be drawn from items and advertisements appearing in the columns of the paper itself.¹¹

⁹ Complete files of this periodical are in the library of the University of Texas, from the first issue in 1842 to the last in 1887. They were donated to the University by Mrs. Isabella Gordon De Morse Latimer, daughter of Charles De Morse. Graham, *op. cit.*, preface. Dr. Rex W. Strickland, in speaking of *The Northern Standard*, says: "Indeed one may well reckon [it] as one of the most potent educational influences on the frontier." Rex W. Strickland, *Anglo-American Activities in Northeastern Texas, 1803-1845* (unpublished Ph. D. thesis, The University of Texas, 1936), 393.

¹⁰ *The Choctaw Telegraph* was published at Doaksville near Fort Towson from May 3 to December 20, 1849; the publisher was D. G. Ball, the editor Daniel Folsom. *American Newspapers, 1821-1936* (New York, 1937); Grant Foreman, *The Five Civilized Tribes* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1934), 70; *Personal Letter*, Librarian of Congress, June 12, 1940. *The Choctaw Intelligencer* succeeded the *Telegraph*, appearing from June 6, 1850, until January 7, 1852; the *Intelligencer* was published by L. D. Alsobrook with J. P. Kingsbury and J. E. Dwight as editors. *Ibid.*, and *The Choctaw Intelligencer*, October 15, 1851 (Photostat in the possession of R. M. Firebaugh, Hugo, Oklahoma).

¹¹ Dr. Charles W. Ramsdell, professor of history at The University of Texas, who was largely instrumental in obtaining the files of *The Northern Standard* for the University library, has never discovered any subscription lists of the paper. *Personal Letter*, July 26, 1939. A visit and interview with Isabel De Morse Latimer at Clarksville, Texas, August 31, 1939, failed to reveal any such lists at the old home of Charles De Morse.

The first issue of the weekly, that of August 20, 1842, carried the name of "Lorenzo Delano, P. M. Park Hill, Cherokee Nation" in the list of "Agents for the Standard."¹² Little news or advertising was ever published from the Cherokee Nation, however, as it was too far away, being geographically a part of the Arkansas River valley and thus more naturally joined by socio-economic ties to the state of Arkansas. Abundant evidence is furnished, on the other hand, by the columns of the *Standard* that the Texas paper was a news medium for the areas around Fort Towson and Fort Washita in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. The fourth issue named for the first time among the "Agents" that of "G. C. Gooding, P. M. Fort Towson."¹³ Other mention of Gooding did not occur until almost a year and a half later when an advertisement for "A. P. Gray & Campbell Commission Merchants, No. 41 New Levee st., New Orleans" gave the postmaster as a reference in a list of three: "Refer to Gov. James S. Conway, La Fayette, Ark. G. C. Gooding, Fort Towson, Arkansas, Bryarly & Campbell, Shreveport Louisiana."¹⁴ From June, 1845, until well into 1846 the Fort Towson postmaster ran a large advertisement for his "Cheap Cash Store;"¹⁵

¹² *The Northern Standard* (Clarksville, Texas), August 20, 1842. Hereafter any date cited alone will be understood to refer to this publication.

¹³ September 10, 1842.

¹⁴ January 13, 1844. Gooding was also the post sutler. Grant Foreman, *Advancing the Frontier* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1933), 85 and 104.

¹⁵ June 7, 1845, *et seq.* The full advertisement may be of interest, since it must almost be an inventory of goods carried in a typical frontier store:

"CHEAP CASH STORE.

JUST RECEIVED, direct from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New Orleans, by steamers Col. Harney, Frontier, Revenue, Hempstead and Agnes, Two Thousand packages of Goods, which are now opening and for sale low for CASH, by GEORGE C. GOODING, at his old stand in FORT TOWSON, consisting of the following articles, viz.

500 pieces *Prints*, of various colors,

40 pieces *De Lains*, Do

10 pieces *Cashmere*, Do

10 pieces black, blue, and blue-black *Silks*, Silk, Woolen, Cotton and knit

Shawls,

BLEACHED AND BROWN COTTONS:

1000 pieces 3-4 Brown Cottons,

100 pieces 4-4 Brown Cottons,

100 pieces 5-4 Brown Cottons,

100 pieces 6-4 Brown Cottons,

800 pieces 3-4 4-4 5-4 & 6-4 Bleached Cottons,

Alpacas, Lawns, Muslins, Edgings, &c.

Bonnets and Caps, Ribbons of various kinds, and colors, Tapes, Thread, Needles, Pins, Cotton Cord, Stay Lacings, together with a large supply of such articles as are usually wanted by *Ladies*.

50 Boxes Boots and shoes, a few cases fine French Boots, 4 cases Ladies Shoes.

Linen, Cotton, Calico and Hickory *Shirts*.

GROCERIES.

50 Bags Coffee, 50 bbls Brown Sugar, 4 bbls. Loaf Sugar, 4 bbls. Crushed Sugar, Pepper, Allspice, Almonds, Sweet Crackers, Water Crackers, Nutmegs,

in 1847 he was running another notice in conjunction with his cousin, Henry Gooding, proprietor of the Star Hotel in Clarksville, in an attempt to sell a closed carriage and a surveyor's compass.¹⁶

A stronger factor, however, than the purchase of advertising space in the paper worked for a close relationship between the Clarksville editor and the Fort Towson postmaster. This factor developed from the circumstance that the mail service of the Texas republic, at least that which served the northern settlements along Red River, left much to be desired; the result of this circumstance was the establishment of a private mail service to connect Clarksville with Fort Towson, thus giving the former community the advantage of the latter's superior communications with points north and east. The postal facilities of the north Texas town remained poor for a year or two after the admission of Texas into the Union, the dependence of Clarksville on Fort Towson for news from the United States and the outside world continuing until 1846 or 1847. Evidence of the situation was manifested in the second issue of the *Standard* when De Morse announced that he had arranged for a private mail service between Pine Creek and Fort Towson, thus connecting the Texas mail system with that of the United States.¹⁷ The editor stated the details of the project thus:

Arrangements will be made, so that those who contribute to the support of the project, will have their letters and papers from the United

Cloves, Cinnamon, Mace, Catsup, Jellies, Pickles of all kinds, Lemon and other Syrup, Olive Oil, Olives, Capers, Prunes, Raisins, Mustard, &c. &c., manufactured by and direct from Wm. Underwood, Boston, Segars, Tobacco of various kinds.

Crockery and Glass ware, of ALL KINDS Tin Ware, Hardware and Cutlery, Nails, Iron &c. &c., Horse Shoes and Nails.

Together with every other article generally wanted in this country.

My business having increased, I am prepared to sell low, for Cash or Country Produce. Friends, Please give us a call at the Old Stand.
Fort Towson, May 20th 1845"

¹⁶ March 6, 1847, *et seq.* The advertisement was:

"FOR SALE

A close [*sic*] carriage of large size, and in good order—original cost, in Petersburg, Va. \$500. Will be sold low for Cash or on good terms for produce.

Also a Surveyor's Compass, first quality, and in good order.

Apply to Henry Gooding
Star Hotel, Clarksville or
Geo. C. Gooding P. M.
Fort Towson"

The degree of relationship between George and Henry Gooding was determined by an interview with Mrs. Roxie Gooding of Goodland, Oklahoma, August 9, 1940. Mrs. Gooding is the widow of Henry Leavenworth Gooding, son of George C. Gooding.

¹⁷ August 27, 1842. Pine Creek refers to the mouth of that creek on the Texas side of Red River and opposite the mouth of the Kiamichi River in the Choctaw Nation.

States, sent here, and can pay their postage here, instead of sending to Towson. None except subscribers to the route will be accommodated.¹⁸

The route went into effect immediately, some trouble being encountered in collecting from subscribers to the service, for notices to the delinquents appeared in the winter of 1842-1843.¹⁹ In the issue for January 7, 1843, Editor De Morse urged subscribers:

. . . to come forward and pay up. The names of those who do not comply within two weeks, will be stricken from the list.

In February, 1843, the government of Texas discontinued the mail service from Clarksville to Pine Creek, whereupon De Morse announced that the mail to Pine Creek would be continued as a private affair in order that "the channel of communication with the United States . . . [would] still be open."²⁰ Complete arrangements for the private mail were announced two weeks later, De Morse undertaking to act as representative for the Clarksville end of the service.²¹ The mail rider left Clarksville each Monday morning and returned each Tuesday evening; the postage on letters over the route was thirty-seven and one-half cents each, on newspapers, three cents each.²²

The first issue of the *Standard* in March carried this notice in the editorial column:

Persons in the United States who wish to write to others resident in this District, will do well to recollect that the route by the way of Fulton [Arkansas] has been discontinued by our government, but that by directing their letters to Fort Towson, they will reach this place, without detention.²³

One more quotation will emphasize the dependence of the Clarksville area on the Fort Towson mail service during this period:

No United States mail by way of Fort Towson for two weeks, so that we are without any news isolated from the world. The Cypresses cutting off our communication with the interior, and some swollen stream on the other side of Red river, obstructing the passage of the mail.²⁴

Even after the Texas government established a public mail route in the spring of 1844 to connect Fort Towson and Clarksville, mak-

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ December 3, 1842, and January 7, 1843.

²⁰ February 4, 1843.

²¹ February 16, 1843.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ March 2, 1843. The issue for March 9, 1843, stated that the editor was in error when he announced the abandonment of the route from Fulton; this made no difference, however, for the route through Fort Towson was more reliable and continued to be the one chiefly used. De Morse made this request, April 13, 1843: "We received by the last mail from the interior [of Texas], the November number of Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, and a Copy of the Albany Agriculturist, which were sent to us by way of Fulton. Exchange papers will please direct to us by way of Fort Towson, Choctaw Nation."

²⁴ May 11, 1843. Other statements concerning the Fort Towson mail during the period may be found in the issues for November 4, 18, 1843; February 10, 24, March 20, 27, April 17, 24, and May 22, 29, 1844.

ing the private mail unnecessary, the Texas town continued to receive its most reliable service through the Fort Towson channel.²⁵ As previously mentioned, the situation continued for a year or two after Texas statehood.

The man on the other end of these arrangements for the mail was George C. Gooding, Fort Towson postmaster, although his name was rarely mentioned by Editor De Morse. Evidence of Gooding's part in the north Texas mail service are to be found in frequent lists of "Letters In the Post Office at Fort Towson, for citizens of Texas," many of them carrying the name of "Geo. C. Gooding, P. M. Fort Towson, C. N." as proof of his interest.²⁶ The earlier lists included some rather indefinite addresses: for example, "Isaac J. Baily—Texas," or "Clerk County Court, Jonesborough."²⁷ An editorial notice in the summer of 1845 would suggest that Gooding also encountered trouble in making postal collections:

The Post Master at Fort Towson wishes sundry persons on this side, who are indebted to him for postage, to attend to the payment, *instanter*. Those who do not take this hint, will be likely to find their papers stopping in future at that place, instead of coming over to them.²⁸

Lists of letters published in 1846 and 1847 were complete, being no longer designed simply to inform "citizens of Texas" but also citizens of the Indian country. One published in the summer of 1846 contained the names of two Colberts, two Folsoms, a "Pytechlyn, Miss M.," and Robert Jones, the famous Choctaw planter and business man.²⁹ Mute evidence that in time of war a soldier's mail often fails to keep pace with his changes of address is found in a list of Fort Towson letters published in the fall of 1846; among one hundred and fifty-one names there appeared that of "Z. Taylor."³⁰ The end of the dependence of the Clarksville area on Fort Towson for postal service may be surmised from the fact that the last of the Fort Towson lists appeared in the summer of 1847.³¹

There is some evidence that a personal friendship developed between De Morse and Gooding during these years; in fact, De Morse appears to have been on friendly terms with several citizens of the

²⁵ March 20, 1844.

²⁶ April 3, May 29, 1844; July 15, October 24, 1846; January 23, April 22, July 17, 1847.

²⁷ April 3 and May 29, 1844.

²⁸ August 2, 1845.

²⁹ July 15, 1846, *et seq.*

³⁰ October 24, 1846, *et seq.*

³¹ July 31, 1847, *et seq.* Ordinarily each list of names was run in three successive issues. In the fall of 1847, November 11, the name of the post office was changed to Doakville, Joseph R. Berthelet becoming postmaster; no lists of names from the Doakville postoffice appeared in the *Standard*. George C. Gooding served as postmaster at Fort Towson from September 7, 1832, until Berthelet took over. Foreman, *op. cit.*, footnote 15, p. 85.

Doaksville-Fort Towson area. One of several similar items published in 1846 will illustrate this fact:

We are indebted to Mr. Jos. Compton of Doaksville, and to Geo. C. Gooding Esq. P. M. Fort Towson, for copies of late papers from various quarters.³²

Because of the state of the mail service first news of the annexation of Texas and of events in the Mexican War reached Clarksville by way of Fort Towson. In the editorial columns of the *Standard* for January 21, 1846, the following paragraph appeared:

ANNEXATION CONSUMMATED.—

We are indebted to a friend at Fort Towson, for a copy of the Washington Union, of Dec. 22nd, by which it appears, that, on that day; the Joint resolution for the admission of Texas into the Union, passed the Senate. . . .³³

News of the advance of General Scott's army on Mexico City came to the *Standard* direct from George C. Gooding, as the following item would indicate:

Latest from
MEXICO

For several days, we have been in possession of the Mexican accounts of the late battles before their Capital; but giving little credence to them, we have waited for further intelligence. By last night's mail, we received from our friend Geo. C. Gooding, the Postmaster at Fort Towson, a paper [the New Orleans *Picayune*] containing later news than any other brought by mail. . . .³⁴

The two Doaksville friends of De Morse whose names appeared most frequently in his columns were J. G. Read and D. G. Ball. The former in particular sent frequent communications to the *Standard* from 1845 through 1847, many of which were signed with the single initial "R."³⁵ The first letter from "R." to De Morse, dated at Fort Towson on November 28, 1845, warned Texans that a party of Cherokees were on their way from Fort Gibson "for the purpose of

³² October 31, 1846.

³³ January 21, 1846. In the preceding week's issue, an item appeared which emphasizes the close relationship between the Choctaw community and the north Texas community, as well as the dependence of the latter upon the former for news:

"ANNEXATION.—We perceive that during our absence, a meeting upon the supposed consummation of the annexation, has been held; in the proceedings of which, our name appears. Had we been here, we should have participated zealously, provided we had had evidence of the passage of the act through the two houses. That evidence, however, we have not yet seen, and there is nothing of it at Towson where we have been." January 14, 1846.

³⁴ October 23, 1847.

³⁵ The assumption that J. G. Read and "R." were the same person is one that seems likely to the writer but for which no definite proof can be advanced.

attacking the exploring party" of the same tribe which was south of Red River at the time.³⁶ An item in the summer of 1846 gave Read's initials for the first time:

Our thanks are due to Gen. Rusk, Hon. D. S. Kaufman, and Mr. J. G. Read of Fort Towson, for public documents, and late papers.³⁷

The same number contained a letter signed "R." which gave an account of the Choctaw election of July 8, 1846:

Fort Towson, July 10th, 1846.

Major De Morse:

The elections of Chiefs for the three Choctaw Districts, came off on the 8th inst., and resulted in the election of Col. Thos. L'Flore, as Chief of this the Puck-she-nubbie District, by a majority of 58 votes, over Geo. Hudson; and 171 over Col. Joel Nail, the two opposing candidates. The whole number of votes cast was 671, of which L'Flore received 300, Hudson 242. And Nail 129. L'Flore, the successful candidate, and present Chief of this district, is a half breed of French extraction, (as the name implies,) popular with his people, who look up to him as a Father. He is favorable to the efforts that are being made for their civilization, and is in every respect well qualified for the office. In the adjoining, the Push-met-ta-ha District, Silas Fisher, was elected over his competitor Jeremiah Folsom, by a majority of 210. The whole number of votes cast being 456. Mr. Fisher is also a half-breed, and possesses much of the go-ahead spirit of the Anglo Saxon. He was educated at Col. Johnson's school in Kentucky, and will do much for the amelioration of the condition of his red bretheren [sic].

The returns from the remaining Choctaw and Chickasaw Districts have not yet come in. But the presumption is, that the parties favorable to education and reform, have been victorious throughout.

The examination of the four Missionary schools in this District will take place next week.

R. 38

The last communication from or mention of Read was featured in an issue for the summer of 1847, the letter being published under a headline on page one. It reminds the reader that Oklahoma weather is just like it was one hundred years ago, for hail stones of similar size to those reported by Read occurred in the state during the spring of 1940. The Oklahoma weather report of 1847 read thus:

GREAT HAIL

Fort Towson Choctaw Nation,

May 21st 1847

Major De Morse:

On Saturday the 8th inst., the Missionary institution known as 'Armstrong Academy' about 50 miles west from 'Towson,' was visited with a *storm of hail, or chunks of ice*, of such magnitude as literally to 'astonish the Natives.' During its continuance, it might well have been compared to a general breaking up of an *ice pond* over head, so shapeless and *huge*, were a vast quantity of the stones that fell, varying in size from ordinary hail to masses of ice, as large as a *quart cup*. One of them measured by the Rev. R. D. Potts, principal of the institution, was found to be *six*

³⁶ December 3, 1845. The first mention of Read by name occurred in the issue for March 6, 1845: "We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. Reed [sic], of Fort Towson, for a copy of the Madisonian of the 7th ult. . . ."

³⁷ July 15, 1846.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

inches in length, and about four inches in diameter. Some sixty panes of glass were broken in the building, and the roof considerably injured. That the residents were considerably alarmed, may be readily inferred; and that no injury was sustained, by any members of the large school and family stationed there; was perhaps owing to their having been warned to the houses, by a smart shower of rain, immediately preceding the storm.—The weather at the time was quite warm; thermometer probably at about 85 deg.

Yours &
R. 39

Unfortunately, for his letters are the most interesting to the current reader of Oklahoma history, this was the last piece of Mr. Read's correspondence printed by the editor of the *Standard*.

D. G. Ball, publisher of the first Choctaw newspaper, received first mention in the columns of this frontier periodical during the summer of 1846, when De Morse remarked:

By Mr. Ball of Doaksville, who left New Orleans on the 30th ult., and arrived in Town on Monday last, we learn that Troops were pouring into the City, from the upper Country.⁴⁰

A typical mention of Ball in 1847 would leave the impression that he had become quite a crony of the Texas editor; at least he had joined the ranks of those Doaksville citizens to whom the Texan was constantly acknowledging his indebtedness for "late papers." This De Morse sentence was:

We are indebted to Mr. Ball of Doaksville for a late Washington Union.⁴¹

The plans for establishment and publication of a newspaper at Doaksville were briefly mentioned by De Morse in a news item that appeared in the spring of 1848:

NEWS FOR THE CHOCTAWS.

We understand that a newspaper press is about to be established at Doaksville; Mr. Ball, heretofore a Merchant in that place, having passed through here, yesterday morning, on his way to New Orleans for materials.⁴²

Presumably Mr. Ball was very busy with his new project and encountered the editor of the *Standard* little during the next year, for his name did not appear again in the issues of the Texas paper which were examined.⁴³

It is likely that Charles De Morse must have visited Fort Towson in person during this period; but if he did, he failed to give an

³⁹ June 2, 1847.

⁴⁰ June 10, 1846. Reference is here made, of course, to troop movements soon after the outbreak of the Mexican War. Since Ball's route to Doaksville was through Clarksville, he had doubtless come by water to Shreveport, Louisiana, or Jefferson, Texas, and thence overland, the usual route of travel from New Orleans when water in the upper Red River was too low to allow steamboat travel.

⁴¹ December 11, 1847.

⁴² May 20, 1848.

⁴³ The first issue of *The Choctaw Telegraph*, of which D. G. Ball was publisher, did not appear until May 3, 1849. *Personal Letter*, Librarian of Congress, June 12, 1940.

account of any visit in his publication. In January of 1846 he remarked casually while discussing another subject that he had been at Fort Towson, evidently not considering it worth the time of his readers to enter into any discussion of events of the Post.⁴⁴ Another item will illustrate the tone of many which would justify the conviction that De Morse was often a visitor to the army post across the Red River; in his editorial column in the summer of 1844 this paragraph appeared:

Ball Play among the Choctaws.—We have received a communication from Doaksville, signed Noshoba Lakna, informing us, that on the 17th of this month, there is to be a 'Big Ball play, to be played over Klamisha, 8 miles West of Doaksville, Kosha district against half of Red River district. They will gather on the ground, on Sunday the 16th, at night; and the next day about 9 o'clock, the Ball will go up in the air. Dancing will commence the night of the 16th.' Such of our citizens as have not seen this exciting sport, will have an opportunity now.⁴⁵

The inference to be drawn here—although it may be too far-fetched—is that De Morse had already witnessed games of Indian ball in the Choctaw Nation and was advising Texas readers who had not that here was their chance.

The editor did mention a visit to Fort Washita in 1845, his most likely route to that post being by way of Fort Towson. The Washita visit was to attend a meeting, in an unofficial capacity, of a council of the Chickasaws, De Morse promising before his departure from Clarksville to "endeavor while there to glean some matter which [might] interest his readers."⁴⁶ He dutifully reported on his return that he had been "at the Chickasaw Council at the Boiling Springs, near Fort Washita on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week," promising to give an account of the proceedings in the next issue.⁴⁷ The promise was never carried out. One result of the journey, however, was an increase in news from Fort Washita, especially concerning the movement of troops to and from that post.⁴⁸ An item quoted from an Eastern paper in 1846 announced the death by execution at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, of a notorious outlaw, Alonzo Pennington, who had been "arrested about three months since, in the Choctaw Nation near Fort Washita."⁴⁹

The violent death of a noted Red River pioneer trader, Holland Coffee, at the hands of a resident near Fort Washita was mentioned in two issues for the fall of 1846. The first item was:

We learn that on the first inst., a rencounter took place in Grayson county, between Col. Holland Coffee, well known as one of the earliest

⁴⁴ January 14, 1846.

⁴⁵ June 12, 1844.

⁴⁶ July 12, 1845.

⁴⁷ July 26, 1845.

⁴⁸ August 9, September 13, November 19, 1845, and January 7, 14, 1846.

⁴⁹ June 17, 1846.

traders with the Indians, on the waters of Red River, and Mr. Chas. A. Galloway [sic], a merchant, resident of Washita Post. Col. Coffee, is said to have received some stabs which proved mortal.⁵⁰

The second, which appeared more than a month later, furnishes a nice commentary on the workings of frontier justice along Red River in the 1840's:

Grayson District Court.—

Mr. Charles A. Galloway, who was charged with the murder of Col. Coffee, has, we are informed been acquitted by public sentiment. It seems there were several witnesses of the act, and it was so clearly a case of self defense in the last extremity, that the Grand Jury could not find a bill.

We are told that Mr. Galloway is universally considered blameless for his conduct throughout the difficulty, and in the final act which terminated so fatally and unfortunately. We are gratified to find that the case bears this character.⁵¹

The modern reader cannot help but wonder whether this last paragraph were not dictated to the editor by Mr. Galloway or some of the latter's friends, for country editors were even more subject to threats of violence then than now.

The Coffee incident is one example of another point which can be illustrated by quotations from the *Standard*: that is, the part played by the Red River boundary in relationships between citizens of Texas and dwellers in the Indian nations. The River was a goal toward which culprits headed in order to escape justice on either side. Mr. Galloway, "resident of Washita Post," was probably relieved when the Grayson jury refused to prefer charges against him; but had he been indicted, it would have been difficult for Texas authorities to get him to that state for trial had the defendant cared to evade such action. The situation was reflected constantly in the columns of the Clarksville paper by legal notices advertising civil suits by residents of Texas against persons not resident in the state for the collection of debts.⁵² These civil actions, although more numerous, did not receive the publicity of editorial discussion nor were they headlined as news items, so that the state of affairs must be emphasized by the occasional reports of criminal actions.

The columns of the *Standard* portrayed this situation through their advertisements and news articles, which tell of murderers, horse thieves, escaped slaves, and other culprits crossing Red River, their direction determined by the locality from which they were

⁵⁰ October 10, 1846. For an account of Coffee's connection with Oklahoma history, see Grant Foreman's *Pioneer Days in the Early Southwest* (Cleveland, 1926), 157 ff.

⁵¹ November 28, 1846.

⁵² Many such notices appeared in *The Northern Standard* all during the period. An example was a legal notice that one Henry Stoneham was suing Pitman Colbert, "not a resident of this state," for ninety dollars. March 10, 1849, *et seq.*

fleeing. One example of murderers escaping to Texas in 1844 was that of the killers of Seaborn Hill, a trader in the Creek Nation.⁵³ A half-column advertisement during the summer and fall of that year offered a large reward for James L. Dawson, "late Creek agent," and John R. Baylor, his accomplice.⁵⁴ These two gentlemen were accused of the murder of Hill on July 8 and were thought to have escaped to Texas; John Hill, evidently a relative of the murdered man, offered a thousand dollars for Dawson and five hundred for Baylor, with James Logan, Creek Agent, adding an additional five hundred and two hundred respectively.

(To be continued)

⁵³ Grant Foreman, *Advancing the Frontier* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1933), footnote 1, p. 217.

⁵⁴ August 28, 1844, *et seq.*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE TULSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

BY LOUISE WHITHAM

Appraisal of the various activities undertaken by the Oklahoma Historical Society reveals many striking and successful projects. Outstanding, of course, is the state museum in its well planned new building and the Society's quarterly publication, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. These issues have been made possible largely by the gratuitous efforts of many who have progressed from being merely interested members of the Society to having become capable research writers. The Oklahoma Historical Society may now claim sponsorship of, or cooperation with, a project in another area,—stimulation of interest in local historical research by High School pupils, who, it is to be hoped, will also develop in ability.

The purpose of this paper is to review some of the experiences of a student-group in Central High School, Tulsa, Oklahoma, which is benefiting from its association with the Oklahoma Historical Society. The intent of the writer is not so much to recount the story of the project as to discuss some of the pedagogical problems and advantages of the research-approach in the study of local or regional history. As such it may have most interest for the teacher-readers of *The Chronicles* but, by indicating an expanding field of service for the state Historical Society, it may be of interest to others as well.

The story of the Tulsa Historical Society of Tulsa Central High School is brief. It is in its fourth year of formal organization. Unity and standing and permanence come through organization, while the mechanics of working under an organization develops student personality. Class enrollment automatically means membership in the Historical Society for most of the work is done in the classroom. A charter has been adopted and the essentials of parliamentary procedure are followed when needed. Working under the name of the Tulsa Historical Society has been useful both in getting public recognition, and in securing aid for the projects undertaken.

The Daughters of the American Colonists and the Sons of the American Revolution have been especially helpful.

The movement started in Tulsa Central about five years ago in senior classes studying social and economic problems. So far as practicable local situations were checked against the more general ones of state and nation. Without guidance young people do not think objectively about their home town, so the investigations of

these students helped them see their community in a new way. Soon they began asking "Why is this so"; "How long have we had such conditions?"; "Who were the people who started these movements?"

These questions could only be solved by knowing something about local history. Although for twenty years a teacher in Tulsa, the instructor knew much more about the ancient Greeks and Romans than about modern Tulsa history. J. M. Hall's book, *The Beginning of Tulsa*, told the story to 1900, and Col. C. B. Douglas's three volumes carried it down to 1922. Couldn't these be rewritten in simple classroom style? And couldn't the rest of the story be told by their parents? It might be a real civic service to put out a brief survey. Such were the arguments back of the now four year old local research project with which the Tulsa classes are still working.

Appeals to the State Historical Society for aid has extended the scope of the original project by revealing the considerable amount of authentic research publications available, particularly in the pre-state-hood period. A fine sense of comradeship between the two societies developed. Thanks are due Judge John B. Meserve of Tulsa, a member of the editorial staff of *The Chronicles*, for his sympathetic kindness and advice, and to Mr. James W. Moffitt, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He early recognized the larger possibilities of the project,—its bearing on the understanding and future interest of these young people in Oklahoma History. He aided them by visiting their class-room, by inviting a group of students to visit the Historical building and by allowing their use of the reference library there. He introduced the delegation to Dr. J. B. Thoburn who talked delightfully about the problems involved in writing Oklahoma history.

The bond of fellowship was deepened when representatives from the High School Society were invited to attend the programs and to go on the field trip of the 1940 annual meeting. Judge Robert L. Williams and Judge Harry Campbell approved the publication of the group effort titled, "Educational History in and about Tulsa, Oklahoma, (1839-1939)," which appeared in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, March, 1940.

Naturally, this contribution betrayed the immaturity of its authors, yet its effect on the members of the High School Society was out of all proportion to that of the more scholarly researches of that issue. This recognition of a High School assembly program and research effort was both generous and intelligent. Certainly *The Chronicles* is not a Junior publication, and no precedent has been established, but in letting down its bars that once it furthered one of the state society's major purposes. In fact the collection of data, and the preservation of articles are but means to this end,—that succeeding generations shall know how to evaluate and to use the information made available by their predecessors.

The project begun by Tulsa senior classes of 1937 was at first designed to be a brief summary of local events from the coming of the first railroad, 1882. What went before that seemed lost in the mists of ignorance. For instance the following statements were found in accounts about Tulsa:

"From an Indian-cow-town—"

"No one lived where Tulsa now stands"—

"There is no history earlier than 1882"—

"If anything happened before the railroad came there was no one to make note of it."

At last one boy said, "My people have lived in Oklahoma since 1828. Surely there is history in that. How can one get at Indian records and documents? This lost history must be there."

And another—"The state of Oklahoma has about ninety thousand citizens of Indian blood. Is it fair to them to tell only the white story?"

A survey of several classes indicated that about one-fourth of the students had some degree of Indian blood or family connection. Moreover the town-site of Tulsa is spread over old Creek Nation lands onto the corners of Osage and Cherokee lands. Considering all of this, the scope of class research was widened to include the histories of those three very different Indian stocks—"Our Neighboring Nations."

Facts relating to these tribes or to this area were noted by student researchers, each of whom read one or more books dealing with the pre-statehood period. From these notes, an introductory summary, called the "Historical Background" was written. Although a few rare or expensive books were borrowed, many were purchased for class reference use. From them students now give oral reports on points of interest which could not be developed in the summary. This plan provides for continuous research by each new group, familiarizes them with foot-note and reference-technique and makes comparison and criticism possible.

That part of the text book dealing with the modern period attempts to understand the development of the city from an industrial and economic viewpoint. The welfare and cultural situations are considered as challenges to community intelligence and co-operation.

The task of a High School group setting out to organize the leading events in its neighborhood history may involve primary research, but will more probably become a synthesis of accounts found in the patient research work of others. It was Dr. Grant Foreman's studies in detailed Indian History which made the first half of our task possible, and gave authenticity to the brief accounts which were finally prepared as historical backgrounds for the exercises. Simple stories of the Osage, the Creeks, the Cherokees, and their western

establishment were worked out. Wherever possible the account was localized. Judge Meserve has published the story of the Perrymans in *The Chronicles* of June, 1937. This family once owned most of present Tulsa and they have furnished much intelligent and capable leadership. The part played by members of that family gave reality to the story of settlement, the Civil War, and the period following the war.

Some of the thrill of the primary researchers was felt by the class-member who, interviewing Mrs. Perryman, was allowed to copy the yellowed letter of a home-sick lad in the Civil War, Legus Perryman, who later became a Principal Chief. This family also founded the society's historical collection when members gave the old post-boxes used when Tulsa post office was first established in 1879. Perhaps some day our town may have proper housing for this growing collection.

The hand-book is still incomplete but is now being used in mimeographed units or chapters as guide-sheets for student-reading and activities. Directed and free research is made from such authors as: Foreman, Thoburn, Abel, Dale, Gittinger, Wardell, and Trickett. Probably no other High School in the state has made more complete use of *The Chronicles*.

Professors of Oklahoma history may object because High School students are reading works designed for the college level, but the oral reports of these students show that they have both understood what they found and enjoyed reading it. Very few of these students can go to the state institutions of higher learning so the danger of repetition probably does not outweigh the increased interest in accurate Oklahoma history. At least in the case of Vernon Luckenbill the information and skills acquired in the research class laid a foundation for further study in the State College at Stillwater. He has marked literary ability and is now working on an Oklahoma story set in the conflict-period of the early Osages and Cherokees.

Besides the regular work sheets, the Society is accumulating firsthand accounts of experiences by pioneers and prominent people of Tulsa. It sponsors programs and presents important people in the school assembly. On the observance of this year's Oklahoma Historical Day it was able to present Mrs. Ida Stephens Haworth who opened the first missionary school here in 1883.

Then there is what is known as "The Appendix." This is a collection of individual studies or particular phases,—material too detailed to be included in the work-sheets. Some of the subjects are: "Tulsa's Railroads," "The Race Riot of 1921," "The Evolution of the Place-name, Tulsa," "Law and Order in Tulsa," etc. These might be called term-themes for they are documented. Some are very creditably presented; others not so well. Of course their highest value was to the person who did them. In fact that is probably the

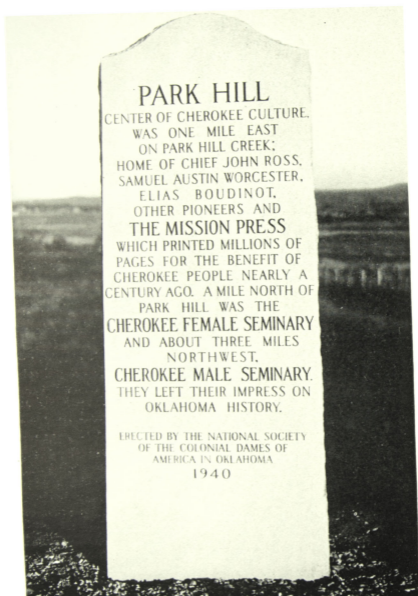
great point of recommendation for this method of getting history. *The student must make an effort to get it.* The conventional history text book has a definite place, probably in the grades even more than in the High School, but memory work is less educative than knowledge gained through individual effort based on interest.

One of the difficulties in this project has been through having to carry it from one year to another with new students each year. It takes about half a year for the students to accumulate enough information and grasp of subject and method to make them effective helpers. At least, the spring semester has always produced the most satisfactory results. Research for class recitation, and research for writing are such different problems that a special group during the school year 1939-40 volunteered for assistance in preparing the text book or work units. Students of the present group are checking and correcting the errors which naturally have crept into a project on which so many people have worked. An editorial board with the instructor as editor-in-chief is absolutely necessary to secure continuity and uniformity of style in writing the general account. Yet whatever significance this work has derives entirely from its being a group effort, and being done to satisfy a desire to know.

Definitely this type of teaching requires more effort than under the conventional text book method, yet it has its compensations. There are the delights of exploring a new fact-area, the teacher's satisfaction as student interest and ability develops, the surprise of public appreciation and now and then the emotional reaction of a coincidence like the following.

Talking to a group in another High School the story of Robert Loughridge was told. As a young man in 1843, he came by horseback 600 miles to ask the Creeks if he might establish a mission-school. They wanted the school but no preaching. Ultimately he founded both the Coweta and the Tullahassee schools and several Presbyterian congregations. There was much hardship, sorrow, bravery and success in that story. As an old man in 1883 he preached the very first sermon heard in the infant town of Tulsa. At the close of the class session a girl said, "You were talking about my grandfather; I had never thought of him as a historical personage."

Any class attempting in some such way to study local history will find it a real challenge of ability. Probably they will enjoy it and be better citizens because of it. When they need help they can find it, as the Tulsa classes often have, in the kindly interest of their townspeople and from the members of the Oklahoma Historical Society.



PARK HILL
CENTER OF CHEROKEE CULTURE,
WAS ONE MILE EAST
ON PARK HILL CREEK;
HOME OF CHIEF JOHN ROSS,
SAMUEL AUSTIN WORCESTER,
ELIAS BOUDINOT,
OTHER PIONEERS AND
THE MISSION PRESS
WHICH PRINTED MILLIONS OF
PAGES FOR THE BENEFIT OF
CHEROKEE PEOPLE NEARLY A
CENTURY AGO. A MILE NORTH OF
PARK HILL WAS THE
CHEROKEE FEMALE SEMINARY
AND ABOUT THREE MILES
NORTHWEST,
CHEROKEE MALE SEMINARY.
THEY LEFT THEIR IMPRESS ON
OKLAHOMA HISTORY.

ERECTED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF
AMERICA IN OKLAHOMA
1940

MONUMENT AT PARK HILL.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Oklahoma has planned for a number of years to erect an appropriate monument to mark outstanding historical events and locations in the eastern part of the state. After much study of the history of this region they reached the conclusion that the neighborhood of ancient Park Hill was the most interesting historically and was more intimately associated with the early progress and culture of the state than any other. They therefore concluded that their monument should be erected in that vicinity. It was decided to locate it on the highway in view of passing travelers and a location was therefore selected on the brow of a little hill three miles south of Tahlequah, that gave an extended view of the ancient settlement of Park Hill and the surrounding country.

The inscription on this monument stands out so clearly in the subjoined photograph that it is unnecessary to repeat it here. On this monument one will learn that Park Hill was regarded as the center of Cherokee culture for several reasons; it was here that Rev. Samuel Austin Worcester located in 1837 and established his mission press. Here also was the home of Cherokee Chief John Ross, which was the center of much interest, and the objective over many years of numerous visitors come to see the chief of the Cherokee Nation and to observe the printing press in its useful occupation of turning out a great mass of printed material for the benefit of the Indians.

Directly east of the monument in the little woods that crowns the ridge are graceful brick columns, now surrounded by brambles and brush, all that remains of the Cherokee Female Seminary, where many Cherokee women received their formal education. About two miles northwest of this mission was the male seminary.

This monument was dedicated by the sponsors on November 16, 1940. The exercises were presided over by Mrs. Andrew R. Hickam, president, of Oklahoma City, who was introduced by Mrs. Jason C. Clark, chairman of historic activities of the Society. After an introductory address explaining the aims of the society, Mrs. Hickam introduced Grant Foreman, who made an address explaining the historic significance of the grounds commemorated by the monument. Mrs. James B. Diggs of Tulsa, chairman on the historical committee for Eastern Oklahoma, devoted much time and thought to the planning of the monument and its erection, and the dedicatory exercises.

The greatest battle of the Civil War in the Indian Territory in which the largest number of men participated, involving the greatest loss of life, was fought July 17, 1863, between the Confederate and Federal forces about seventeen miles south of where Muskogee now is. This was called the Battle of Honey Springs from the fact that nearby Honey Springs, two or three miles south of Oktaha, was the headquarters of the Confederate forces under command of Douglas H. Cooper.

The battle began on the prairie north of the site of Oktaha and from there the Federal troops forced the Confederates south over the site of that town and finally across Elk Creek. Soon after this stage of the battle the Confederates retreated, leaving on the battle field 150 dead, who were buried by the Union troops. In this battle there were about 10,000 troops engaged on both sides. The official reports showed that the Confederate troops, who were mostly Indians, were greatly handicapped by lack of arms, and damp powder that often would not discharge in the guns. While they slightly outnumbered the Federal troops, the latter had the advantage of better training and equipment, and especially in artillery.

Since the battle the burial place of the dead was unmarked for these many years; but the General Forrest Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Muskogee determined to make amends for this long neglect and caused a handsome Vermont granite marker to be erected northeast of Oktaha within the probable limits of the battle field. This monument bears the following inscription: "To honor the Confederate soldiers of the Honey Springs battle, July 17, 1863. Erected by the General Forrest Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1940."

This monument was dedicated on the afternoon of September 15, 1940, in the presence of visitors from points over the eastern part of the state. The exercises were presided over by Mrs. Hugh Lewis, president of the Chapter. They included a bugle call at the opening; a salute to the flags; ritual reading by the chapter president; a prayer by Rev. Virgil Alexander, pastor of the St. Paul's Methodist Church, Muskogee; a tribute to the members of the Sam Checote Camp who took part in the Battle of Honey Springs, by Roland Bailey; a solo, "The Soldier Sleeps," by Mrs. William A. Green; and an address by Grant Foreman, who traced the history of the battle commemorated by the monument. The exercises were closed by taps.



HONEY SPRINGS BATTLE MONUMENT

Recalling the days when huge herds of cattle roamed the ranges and the arrival of the stage from Quanah, Texas, was the big event in the life of Mangum, hundreds of Greer County pioneers gathered Wednesday at Harmon Field for their eighth annual reunion.

Since organization of the pioneers' group, all settlers who came to Old Greer County before March 16, 1896, have been eligible for membership. Wednesday, the pioneers advanced the date to March 16, 1900. The new date will admit hundreds of persons formerly excluded from the association.

Officers elected Wednesday were G. B. Townsend, Mangum, president; Louis M. Tittle, Mangum, vice president from Greer County; Jeff Price, Delhi, vice president from Beckham County; Carl Putman, Gould, vice president from Harmon County; F. B. Baker of Altus, vice president from Jackson County.

Approximately 850 pioneers registered Wednesday for the reunion, Zearl Lowe, registrar, reported. A large number of pioneers, their children and guests enjoyed a barbecue Wednesday noon at Harmon Field.

Opening the program Wednesday afternoon, Wade Shumate, Mangum chamber of commerce secretary, introduced Townsend, who gave the welcome address. L. F. Martin of Hollis, retiring president, gave a talk.

Other talks were made by Mrs. Sam Holmes, Eldorado; Rev. J. H. McCuiston, Hollis; F. B. Baker, Altus; H. J. Banks, Willow; Wheeler Paxton, Jester. Elmore Dodson of Dodson, Texas, presented early day recollections mentioning many families he had known in the pioneer period.¹

Among those who contributed to the success of the Cherokee Strip celebration at Ponca City, Oklahoma, on September 16, 1940, were Senator Charles B. Duffy; Joe McFadden, chairman of the Cherokee Strip celebration committee; President Harper Baughman and Secretary H. L. Schall of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce. Among those attending the impressive exercises and luncheon on that day were Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. James E. Berry; Budget Officer R. R. Owens and Mrs. Owens; Hon. George Meacham of the State Highway Commission; Mrs. Blanche Lucas, Postmaster at Ponca City; President and Mrs. Loren Brown, University Preparatory School and Junior College, Tonkawa; President H. G. Bennett, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater.

Reliance on the living philosophy of the Cherokee Strip pioneers will strengthen Americans in the trying times which now confront us, Dr. Henry G. Bennett told the audience at the statue of the

¹ Mangum Daily Star, July 18, 1940.

Pioneer Woman. At the conclusion of his address the Ponca City Kiwanis Glee club sang "Old Faithful" and "God Bless America." Senator Charles B. Duffy, master of ceremonies for the program, introduced the Reverend V. A. Hargis, pastor of the First Methodist church, who delivered the invocation. Wreaths of flowers were placed at the foot of the statue by former Governor E. W. Marland (the donor) and by James W. Moffitt, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society and representative of the State of Oklahoma.

An impressive parade was one of the highlights of the day's celebration. An elaborate float entered by the National Youth Administration project at the 101 Ranch symbolizing the famous ranch from its beginning in 1889 to the present day was judged first in the historical float division of the parade. A small replica of a covered wagon drawn by oxen was mounted on a white crepe paper float.²

Interested audiences watched the impressive and solemn story of the life of an Indian Warrior, Eagle Nest, unfold at the American Indian Exposition pavilion in the presentation of "Tepee Tales," the pageant written and directed by Mrs. Margaret Pearson Speelman, August 14, 15, 16, 1940.

Mingling the lively and "un-modern" dances of the Plains Indians with the rites and ordeals of an Indian's lifetime from birth until death, the pageant moved without hesitation from one sequence to another in the "tales" of tepee life.

The cast of the pageant—250 Comanches, Kiowas, Caddoes, Delawares, Wichitas, Apaches and representatives from Cheyenne, Arapaho and other plains tribes—performed in a round dance around the council fire and the audience moved into the proper mood to appreciate the solemn yet colorful program to follow.

Matthew Botone, Kiowa orator, offered the invocation at the start of the pageant in his native tongue. Father Al of St. Patrick's Mission delivered the opening prayer in English.

The chiefs of many tribes danced following the opening narration by Frank Jones, Kiowa. Maggie Tahone bathed in a golden light and standing to the left of the pageant's council fire told the story as Jones read in signs.

Drawing the greatest ovation was the "rabbit dance" presented by the stripling children of tribesmen in native dress.

The "war dance" performed following the "reaching of manhood by Eagle Nest" was the wildest ritual during the ceremonial. The band of 125 feathered and painted warriors—young and old—hurled themselves into the fury of the dance and to the fast rhythmic

² Ponca City News, September 16, 1940.

beating of the tom-toms and the screeching of war cries practically exhausted themselves in the traditional ceremony.

And as life of "Eagle Nest" progressed through the years portrayed in the story, the dances became more reserved as he reached a venerable age. And in the closing moments, Albert Attocknie, venerable Comanche tribal member, sang the "Death Song" in a quavering voice denoting the last preparation of the Indian for his death.

At the close of the pageant, all Indians in the cast, children, women and men joined in the Buffalo dance.

The Princess of the Exposition, Miss Madeline Frank, was presented with William J. Karty, president of the exposition. The band played and the audience sang "God Bless America." The national anthem was the closing ceremony.³

At the annual meeting of the Old Settlers Association held October 4, 1940, at the Oklahoma Free State Fair at Muskogee, the following officers were elected: Mrs. R. L. Fite, Tahlequah, President; Hon. John Gulager, Vice-President; Mrs. Troy Arrington, Secretary. They succeeded Nate Gibson, Jr., retiring President; Mrs. John Dills, retiring Secretary; and Mrs. F. B. Fite, retiring Vice-President.⁴

The Latimer County Historical Society was constituted at Wilburton, Oklahoma, on October 18, 1940. The following officers were elected: Professor James D. Morrison, President; Mr. Hobart Boggs, Secretary; County Superintendent of Schools; E. T. Dunlap, Membership Vice-President; City Superintendent of Schools, E. G. Stevens, Program Vice-President. Among those participating in the discussion upon the organization of this Society were President C. C. Dunlap, Eastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; Professor James D. Morrison, Dean R. B. Mitchell, Professor M. E. Derrick, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Tripp, Dr. J. M. Harris, Superintendent E. T. Dunlap, Superintendent E. G. Stevens, Ray P. Boyce, and the Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, James W. Moffitt. An interesting program of activities for the ensuing year has been outlined by this strong new organization.

³ *Anadarko Tribune*, August 15, 1940.

⁴ *Muskogee Daily Phoenix*, October 5, 1940.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE
OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 23, 1941.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society convened in the Historical building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, January 23, 1941, with Judge Robert L. Williams, President, presiding.

The Secretary called the roll, which showed the following members present: Judge Robert L. Williams, Judge Thomas H. Doyle, Gen. Charles F. Barrett, Hon. George L. Bowman, Dr. E. E. Dale, Judge Thomas A. Edwards, Judge Robert A. Hefner, Mrs. Frank Korn, Col. A. N. Leecraft, Mr. J. B. Milam, Hon. W. J. Peterson, Judge Baxter Taylor, Mrs. John R. Williams, and James W. Moffitt, the Secretary.

On motion duly seconded, the absent members were excused from attendance on account of the inclement weather and sickness.

The Secretary reported that no petition was filed by January 1, 1941 for election of successors to the five Board members whose terms expired at this time.

Col. A. N. Leecraft moved that the five members, whose terms had expired, i.e., Judge Thomas A. Edwards, Cordell; Dr. Emma Estill-Harbour, Edmond; Mrs. Jessie E. Moore, Oklahoma City; Dr. James H. Gardner, Tulsa; and Mr. J. B. Milam, Chelsea; be declared as re-elected for the ensuing term of five years. Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

The President reported the death of Mrs. Roberta C. Lawson, one of the members of the Board of Directors, and all members present arose and stood in reverence to her memory.

The repairs made on the roof of the home of the caretaker at the Sequoyah Shrine was reported, and also that the payment of \$60.00 had been taken care of by a private fund specifically collected for such purpose.

Gen. Charles F. Barrett moved that a budget committee of three members be appointed to confer with the Legislature regarding the budget for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Motion was seconded and carried.

The Chair appointed Hon. George L. Bowman, Mr. J. B. Milam and Judge Robert A. Hefner to act in this capacity.

The Secretary presented the following list of applicants for annual membership in the Historical Society:

Mrs. Lillian D. Adkins, Oklahoma City; Charles Andrew Anderson, Pipestone, Minn.; J. W. Batchelor, Durant; Mrs. Corwin Boake, Gotebo; L. W. Brophy, Muskogee; Russell Clark, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Mary E. Frost, Healdton; Wallace Goodman, Durant; Hon. Wm. Gulager, Muskogee; Mrs. Oscar C. Hadley, Miami; Dr. Hyman Joseph Harkavy, Bartlesville; A. Max Holcomb, Eufaula; Dr. Forney Hutchinson, Shawnee; Matthew John Kane, Pawhuska; Mrs. Hazel Lloyd, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Sam Maddux, Lawton; Anna Messick, Atoka; Clyde Green Pitman, Tecumseh; Mrs. Donnelley Reid, Oklahoma City; Mrs. P. B. Rice, Antlers; Mrs. R. P. Shelton, Atlanta, Ga.; Robert T. Stinson, Durant; Colon Valentine, Oklahoma City; Luther Elgin Warren, Tulsa; Leslie C. Williams, Oklahoma City; George Duncan Wilson, Enid and Albert Daniel Wright, Chandler.

Hon. W. J. Peterson moved that these persons be elected to annual membership in the Historical Society. Motion was seconded and carried.

Judge Robert A. Hefner and Hon. George L. Bowman asked to be excused from attendance further at this meeting on account of other engagements, which was granted.

Mrs. John R. Williams transmitted for Alfaretta Jennings a copy of an address delivered by Quanah Parker, Chief of the Comanches, regarding taxing the Indians and other matters, which was accepted and the Secretary was instructed to file it in the archives, and thank Miss Jennings for this donation.

The Secretary presented the minutes of the Board meeting held October 24, 1940 and the minutes of the called meeting held November 15, 1940, and upon motion duly seconded the reading of these minutes was passed subject to be called for consideration upon request.

Judge Thomas H. Doyle moved that the President be authorized to fix the date of the annual meeting scheduled to be held at Lawton, or on account of an emergency, to designate some other place for holding the annual meeting. Motion was seconded and Judge Doyle put the motion, which carried.

Hon. W. J. Peterson moved that the President be authorized and given full power to change the place of holding the annual meeting, and fix the date of the meeting. Upon receiving a second, Mr. Peterson put the motion which was carried.

The request of the Association of Oklahoma Artists for permission to hang their pictures in the art gallery of the Historical building was discussed and a decision was passed for the time being.

A letter from Dr. Grant Foreman was read, requesting that filing cases be purchased to take care of the cards made in indexing the Indian-Pioneer biographies, which have been assembled under the Indian-Pioneer history project.

Mr. J. B. Milam moved that one case be purchased out of the present funds available. Motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. J. B. Milam discussed the advisability of securing for the State the Cherokee Female Seminary grounds, the Union Mission grounds and the grounds of the Dwight Mission, and moved that the President be authorized to act fully for the Board and to take such action in the matter as may be advisable. Motion was seconded and carried.

Col. A. N. Leecraft moved that the meeting of the Board of Directors, which would regularly be held in April of this year, on account of the annual meeting, be dispensed with. Motion was seconded and carried.

Hon. W. J. Peterson moved that the meeting stand adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

Robert L. Williams, President,
presiding.

James W. Moffitt,
Secretary.