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A DAY NEAR MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

L. H. PAMMEL

In 1921 the writer spent a short time in a study of some of the interesting plants found near Muskogee, Oklahoma. It may be observed here that there have been some very remarkable changes in the region. The writer's first acquaintance with the place was in 1888 when it was only one of the numerous small villages on the line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas R. R. In 1870 it was the chief town of the Creek nation and now is the administrative center of the five civilized tribes of Indians, with a population of over 50,000. The town itself is situated near the confluence of the Verdigris, Neosho and Arkansas rivers. The rivers have deeply carved into the rolling prairie and the flood plains of the smaller streams are rather narrow, although the flood plain of the Arkansas widens out considerably.

There have also been great changes in the introduced plants of the region. We collected the following introduced plants; *Eragrostis megastachya* *, everywhere, *Panicum dichotomiflorum*, *Setaria glauca*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Eleusine indica*, *Chenopodium ambrosioides*, * *Chenopodium album*, *Solanum rostratum*, *Torilis Anthriscus*, *Helenium tenuifolium*, *Lactuca scariola*, * *Helianthus annuus*, *Coreopsis tinctoria*, *Morus alba*, * *Portulaca oleracea*, * *Datura Stramonium*. There were, of course, many more exotic plants which I did not note.

The Canadian river is one of the interesting features of the region; a stream with muddy water, a deeply eroded channel and swiftly flowing water. The banks near the water's edge contain the usual growth of black willow (*Salix nigra*) overhanging the stream, *Carya illinoensis*, *Quercus palustris*, *Quercus lyrata* and *Celtis mississippiensis*. There were associated with these *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Cyperus strigosus* and *Vernonia interior*. The ravines leading to the stream are narrow, often with very steep banks, the adjacent lands are flat and mostly heavily timbered. In these ravines and on the flats I observed *Celtis mississippiensis*, *Fraxinus lanceolata*, *Quercus lyrata*, *Quercus texana*, *Ilex decidua*, *Sapindus marginatus*, *Vitis cinerea*, *Vitis bipinnatus*, *Viburnum nudum*, *Populus deltoides*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Lindera Benzoin*, *Cercis canadensis*, *Carya illnoensis* and *Carya glabra*,

* In the enumeration of plants I am omitting the authors' name after the species. Species starred are not represented by specimens in herbarium.

Crataegus crus-galli, **Cornus amomum*, *Morus rubra*, *Ulmus alba*, *Ulmus fulva*, *Juglans nigra*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Platanus occidentalis* and such herbaceous plants as *Panicum agrostoides*, *Desmodium paniculatum*, *Campanula americana*, *Phytolacca decandra*, *Leptochloa fascicularis*, *Tecoma radicans*, and *Elymus virginicus*.

In the sandy uplands grow such trees and shrubs as *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus stellata*, *Quercus marilandica*, *Sassafras variifolium*, *Cornus asperifolia*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Prunus chingana*, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, *Tecoma radicans*, *Rhus copallina*, *Rhus Toxicodendron* and *Rhus glabra*. The following herbaceous plants were common in these somewhat sandy uplands: *Chrysopsis villosa*, *Plantago Purshii*, *Passiflora lutea* and *Passiflora incarnata*, *Cassia Chamaecrista*, *Croton monanthogynus*, *Croton capitatus*, *Lactuca canadensis*, *Uniola latifolia*, *Rudbeckia triloba*, *Cenchrus carolinianus*, *Cyperus ovularis*, *Helianthus hirsutus*, *Elymus canadensis*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Eragrostis trichodes*, *Pycnanthemum pilosa*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Commelina virginica*, *Tridens flavus*, *Crotonopsis linearis*, *Paspalum dilatatum* and *Paspalum platycaule*. On the wooded limestone bluffs are such trees as *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Quercus marilandica*, *Q. stellata* and *Cercis canadensis*, and such shrubs as *Cornus asperifolia*, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* and *Rhus copallina*. I noted the following herbaceous plants: *Monarda fistulosa*, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, *Elymus robustus* and *Rudbeckia bicolor*.

It will be seen from the enumeration given above that the more important plants of the bottoms of the Arkansas river are not unlike those found in the bottoms of the streams of southeastern Iowa. There are many more climbing plants of course, many trees being covered with *Tecoma radicans*; *Vitis cinerea* and *Vitis bipinnata* are common everywhere along the borders of woods and in fields. Waste places abound in the buffalo bur (*Solanum rostratum*), *Solanum elaeagnifolium* and *Helonium tenuifolium*.

The limestone hills in the region are several hundred feet above the floor of the valley. The plants here are more or less xerophytic and on the limestone such plants as the black oak (*Quercus marylandica*) and *Q. macrocarpa* abound. There are still large stretches of uncultivated prairies where the wild ryes (*Elymus*), blue-joints (*Andropogon*), blazing stars (*Liatris*), thistles (*Cirsium*), rattle-snake weeds (*Eryngium*), asters, goldenrods (*Solidago*) and sunflowers (*Helianthus*) flourish.