

☆ NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

BROKEN ARROW HISTORY PUBLISHED

A history of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma has been published for the first time, and copies are now available to the public at \$4.00 per copy for handling and postage. Checks should be made to 'History of Broken Arrow', and orders mailed to the Chamber of Commerce, Broken Arrow.

The history explores the Creek Indian heritage of the community and apparently refutes a common legend that attributed naming of the town to a ceremonial post-Civil War breaking of an arrow on the banks of the Arkansas by members of the Upper and Lower Creeks.

The Broken Arrow name came from a tribe in Georgia which found a tree suitable for arrow making along the Chattahoochee River bottom. They discovered they did not need to cut the limbs from the trees but could break them off . . . thus becoming known as the 'Broken Arrow' tribe.

MYSTERY POST OFFICE

By George H. Shirk

Recently while in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I came upon the record of a mystery post office that existed for a short while apparently in Indian Territory, now part of Oklahoma.

In the early 1850s the Postmaster General retired the then existing set of *Record of Postmaster Appointments*, being the master volumes arranged by states and opened a new register for the state of Missouri. All of the then existing post offices in Missouri were entered alphabetically by county in the new volume.

To my surprise I found in the register in its proper alphabetical place there appeared a page with the heading "Indian Territory, Missouri." The name was treated as though it were a county in Missouri and was placed in its proper sequence in the alphabet. On this page was entered only one post office, Uniontown. This record reflects that Uniontown was established March 18, 1851 with Robert Robitville as the postmaster. It was discontinued December 16, 1852 with only the one individual serving as postmaster.

I have been unable to locate Uniontown in any of the records of the Society. Being shown as a Missouri post office, undoubtedly it was located somewhere immediately adjacent to that state, and probably would thus be somewhere in present Ottawa County. Could anyone help me on Uniontown, where it was and why it was a post office?

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

PRESENTATION OF CHOCTAW FLAG TO OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Mrs. V. M. Harry

On January 18, 1974 the Oklahoma City Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy held its Annual Tea at the Confederate Memorial Hall celebrating the Birthday Anniversary of General Robert E. Lee. Jordan Reaves made an address as to the restoration of the Confederate Memorial Hall and mentioned several items that should be a part of the displays and directed our attention to the framed Choctaw Flag and tossed out the remark that surely one of the Daughters skilled with a needle and thread could duplicate the flag so that it could be displayed on a standard. Purely from reflex action, my hand went up, and I committed myself to making the flag.

After two years of struggling with my conscience as to why I made such a pledge, I phoned Hugh Hampton, curator, and asked that he meet me at the Confederate Hall. With the help of some of the wonderful employees at the Society, the framed flag was removed from the wall, and a tracing made of the design, and measurements of the flag determined. Material was purchased, and with my trusty sewing machine, I produced what I believe to be a reasonable facsimile of the Choctaw flag.

Here the picture changes a bit—Dr. Muriel Wright was a member of the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, having proved her membership through her Choctaw grandfather, Allan Wright, who gave the name "Oklahoma" to this great state. The flag was presented to the Chapter, and the membership voted unanimously to present the flag to the Oklahoma Historical Society in memory of Dr. Wright.



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS

*By Gary E. Moulton**

The Battle of Honey Springs, July 17, 1863 stands as a significant turning point in the Federal drive to recapture and secure Indian Territory for the Union cause. Coinciding as it did with the Federal success in the Gettysburg and Vicksburg campaigns in the East, it can be viewed more broadly as a part of a nationwide renewed Federal initiative.

The brief letter that follows may be the only surviving civilian account of the battle. The cryptic initials that close the letter—"E J"—must be those of

* The author is currently Director of the Papers of Chief John Ross and Assistant Professor of History at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Evan Jones, long-time Baptist missionary to the Cherokees. The manuscript was discovered among the John Ross Papers at the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, and probably was meant for the Cherokee Chief who was then in Washington, D.C. Jones's account shows his bias against the "secesh," and his elation over the Union victory is apparent. Yet, when compared to official military reports of the engagement, Jones's description of the sequence of events is accurate. His portrayal of Confederate retreat may be more open to question. Other accounts of this battle have shown 3,000 men for the Federals and twice that many for the Confederates, but Jones's estimates are somewhat less for both sides.

The Confederate forces, in spite of their numerical superiority, were hampered by damp powder that refused to fire and by the effective cannonade of the Union artillery.



Fort Blunt CN July 21st. 1863

I write you a short note to say we have returned from a fight which we call the battle of Honey Springs, it occurred on the 17th. Inst. [July]. The first fighting took place in the edge of the timber as you approach Big Elk Creek, in the Creek Nation. It was a well selected place for the Secesh to defend. But Gen. Blunt¹ moved on them in their concealment, with two Brigades² formed in line of battle, stretching more than a mile in length. We marched all night and came in front of the enemy about 7 o'clock A.M. About 9 o'clock we moved in line of battle. The fight began a little before 10 o'clock A.M. We had twenty five hundred men besides the batteries. The Secesh had about five thousand men and four howitzers. Chilly McIntosh's³ rebel regiment did not fight but run. D. M. McIntosh's⁴ fought a while and then run, Folsome⁵ and Andy Walker's⁶ Choctaw regiments, fought a little more

¹ Major General James G. Blunt, Commander, District of the Frontier. Engagement at Elk Creek, July 17, 1863, United States Department of War, *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (70 vols., 128 books, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Ser. i, Vol. XXII, Pt. 1, pp. 447-462. Hereafter cited as *Official Records*.

² The brigades were commanded by Colonel William R. Judson and Colonel William A. Phillips. Blunt to Major General John M. Schofield, July 26, 1863, *ibid.*, p. 447.

³ Lieutenant Colonel Chilly McIntosh, Second Creek Regiment, Mounted Volunteers. Organization of Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper's Brigade, April 30, 1863, *ibid.*, Ser. i, Vol. XXII, Pt. 2, p. 832.

⁴ Colonel D. N. McIntosh, First Creek Regiment, Mounted Volunteers. *Ibid.*

⁵ Apparently Colonel Simpson N. Folsom whose name does not appear in the Honey Springs battle reports but is listed as head of the Second Regiment under Colonel Tandy Walker in April, 1864. Organization of Confederate Forces in Arkansas, April 20, 1864, *ibid.*, Ser. i, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 1, p. 785.

⁶ Colonel Tandy Walker, First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment. Organization of Cooper's Brigade, April 30, 1863, *ibid.*, Ser. i, Vol. XXII, Pt. 2, p. 832.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

than the McIntoshes. Stand Watie's⁷ fought desperately [sic] for a while and then run. The Texas and Arkansas troops⁸ fought better and displayed a good deal of bravery. We ran them four miles. They formed several times for a fight but we quickly broke their lines every time.

Honey Springs was Cooper's Head Quarters.⁹ As they passed they set fire to their stores.¹⁰ We saved from the flames all we wanted.

I have to stop in order to mail the letter in time.

EJ

ANNUAL AWARD PRESENTED BY THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY FOR THE BEST PUBLISHED RESEARCH STUDY ON THE CONFEDERATES IN INDIAN TERRITORY

Eligible research studies are master's theses accepted for degrees, doctoral dissertations accepted for degrees, printed articles and printed books. Manuscripts, longhand or typed, are not acceptable for consideration. Research studies to be eligible for the annual award competition must have been published during the preceding calendar year. Three copies of each item must be presented for the use of the Panel of Judges and must be received no later than March 1 following the year of publication. Please submit all items for the annual award competition to Mrs. Mary Jeanne Hansen, President, Oklahoma Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, 2315 Northwest Twenty-second Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73107. The winner each year will receive a certificate of commendation at the annual meeting in June of the Oklahoma Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

⁷ Colonel Stand Watie, First Cherokee Regiment. Watie was not there personally, but his troops were commanded by Major Joseph F. Thompson. *Ibid.*: Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper to Lieutenant Colonel James M. Bell, September 24, 1863, Edward Everett Dale and Gaston Litton, *Cherokee Cavaliers: Forty Years of Cherokee History as Told in the Correspondence of the Ridge—Watie—Boudinot Family* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1940), pp. 140-141.

⁸ Texas forces engaged included: Twentieth Texas Dismounted Cavalry, Twenty-ninth Texas Cavalry, Fifth Texas Partisan Rangers, Lee's Light Artillery, Scanland's Cavalry Battalion and Gillett's Cavalry Battalion. No Arkansas units seem to have been involved. The Arkansas brigade under Brigadier General W. L. Cabell had been ordered from Fort Smith to join Blunt, but the flooded condition of Grand River prevented the link-up. Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper, General Orders No. 25, July 14, 1863, *Official Records*, Ser. i, Vol. XXII, Pt. 1, p. 262; Grant Foreman, *A History of Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1945), p. 121.

⁹ Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper (CSA), Commander, First Indian Brigade. Organization of Cooper's Brigade, April 30, 1863, *Official Records*, Ser. i, Vol. XXII, Pt. 2, p. 832.

¹⁰ These warehouses contained a large store of supplies recently brought from Texas which the Confederates wished destroyed rather than have fall into Federal hands. Foreman, *A History of Oklahoma*, p. 121.

NEW MEMBER ELECTED TO BOARD



Mrs. Mark Allen Everett comes to the Board with a strong background in the area of history. As a member of numerous historical organizations, she is author of several articles in the field of genealogy. Mrs. Everett is well known in the Oklahoma City area in the field of community service and support.

Mrs. Mark Allen Everett

MERCY HEALTH CENTER HISTORICAL CEREMONY

On Tuesday, April 27, 1976 Mr. George Shirk and Sister Mary Coletta, R.S.M. officiated in the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Physicians' Building. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mr. Stanley Grubin, General Manager of Western Electric Company. The invocation was given by Father Gerard MacAulay, Pastor of St. Eugene's Parrish. Guest speakers along with Mr. Shirk were Dr. Don F. Rhinehart, President, Oklahoma State Medical Association and Dr. Ira O. Pollock, Chief of Staff, Mercy Health Center.

JANET CAMPBELL, VOLUNTEER IN RESEARCH

If, as a reader of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, you find that quarterly has been consistently readable, much is due to the efforts of Janet Campbell, Editorial Assistant and a volunteer of three years standing to the publications department. Janet has been invaluable in the area of research and is quick to provide information in the field of Cherokee history.
