

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

THE FIRST TELEPHONE LINE IN OKLAHOMA

A few weeks after the first telephone equipment was received at Fort Sill on October 7, 1879—Phelps-Crown equipment, the best on the market—, the first telephone line in Oklahoma was put into operation between Fort Sill and Fort Reno. These telephones were operated by connecting them to the telegraph circuit between the two forts, with the office at each place in the Post Commander's Headquarters building. Soon afterward at Fort Reno, a wire was strung from the Post Headquarters to the commanding officer's residence where another telephone was installed to relay immediately any important telegraph message to the Commandant. A wire was also run to Darlington and telephone equipment installed for the relay of telegrams to the Indian Agency and business men at that point, for bad weather and high waters in the North Canadian often delayed the delivery of telegrams by messenger on horseback from Fort Reno. The following telegram relative to a telephone line at Anadarko, verifying the installation of the Fort Sill-Fort Reno line, was sent by Lieutenant C. A. Tingle, 2nd Artillery, at Cantonment, to P. B. Hunt, Indian Agent of the Wichita Agency, at Anadarko.

Cantonment, I.T.
Nov. 30, 1879

Col. Hunt:
Wichita Agency.

Would advise you to run telephone line from office to school building with wire I left you and test telephone before building permanent line.

Line is open today between Sill and Reno; please allow no one to hand line running into your office. Will order operator for Wichita Agency in a few days on my own responsibility and inform you when he will arrive.

Lt. Tingle

The first telegraph line to Fort Sill had been completed June 2, 1875, built from Fort Richardson, Texas, located a few miles north of Jacksboro, in Jack County, thence to Henryetta, Texas and north to the Indian Territory. The telegraph line was built to Fort Reno by 1879, and thence on to offices at the military camps of Cantonment and Supply many miles west in Oklahoma. This was known as the U. S. Military Telegraph Line, service furnished by Government subsidiary, the line having been constructed to Fort Sill in 1875, by soldiers of the 7th U. S. Infantry, under the direction of Captain W. C. Beach, with the technical installation in charge of Lieutenant Adolphus W. Greeley who some years later headed the famous Greeley Expedition to the arctic region of the Far North. The first telegraph and telephone operator at Fort Sill was J. G. Hewitt; and at Fort Reno, Major W. W. Neifert was in charge from 1886 to 1890.

Just before his assignment to Fort Reno, Neifert had been with the Signal Corps in the U. S. troops that had forced the surrender of the famous Geronimo and his Apache warriors.

Although the U. S. Military Telegraph line in Western Oklahoma, as well as the telephone, was operated as a private line, paid telegrams were also received or sent for business men and ranchers in the region, making it a great convenience.* Regularly at certain hours of the day, press dispatches from the outside world were sent in over the wire to the two forts, and posted at different places over the grounds. At Fort Reno, these bulletins were posted in the Barracks, giving news reports, including market reports from over the country. A noted Sullivan prize fight at New Orleans in the early 1880's was an exciting hour at Fort Reno: the fight was reported round by round over the telegraph wire, and the news relayed immediately to a waiting throng outside the Post Headquarters at Fort Reno where betting was high.

The fact that the Fort Sill—Fort Reno telephone line was installed in 1879, just three years after Bell's invention of the telephone had been patented, and two years after Edison's transmitter and receiver were patented (July, 1877), meant that the first operators of this line had to learn the mechanics of the Phelps-Crown equipment. As soon as the new line was in good working order, the operators agreed upon an hour on Sunday afternoons during which the telegraph was disconnected and unofficial conversation was carried on by telephone between Fort Sill and Fort Reno. The story is told that Hewitt at Fort Sill called in Quanah Parker and his Indian friends who listened in amazement over the telephone to a bugle call at Fort Reno. At another time in the early 1880's, it is said that a band at Fort Reno played for listeners over the telephone at Fort Sill, an event that has been referred to as the first broadcast over the air in Oklahoma.

The very day that the telegraph was completed at Fort Sill—June 2, 1875—saw the surrender of Quanah Parker's Comanche followers, the Quahadi band. The last Comanche raids in the Indian war on the Plains had taken place during the spring of 1875, and there was much excitement and troop activity at military posts in Western Indian Territory. Sending messages for troop movements in the field covering thousands of square miles had been done largely by visual signaling, an assignment usually performed by the Adjutant at Fort Sill in charge of a special signal corps. Visual signaling was done by means of flags, heliograph or signal lamps, or reflectors from a base station at the fort to a station on Medicine Bluff, and on to a blockhouse station on Signal Mountain or on Mount Scott, thence into the field. Messages were thus transmitted to troops in a

* This U. S. Military Telegraph Line should be classed as a commercial line in history since it soon was used more for commercial messages than for military messages.

wide region, as much as eighty miles away, and even to Fort Reno at times.¹

—M.H.W.

LITTLE ROBE TOWNSHIP, ELLIS COUNTY

The following notes on the history of Little Robe Township in Ellis County have been contributed by O. H. Richards, of Arnett, pioneer '89er,² who is well known in Western Oklahoma for his articles under the title "Reminiscences" published in the *Ellis County Capital*. In a letter to the Associate Editor, Mr. Richards told how Ellis County got its name: "Ellis County was named after Albert H. Ellis,³ Vice President of the Constitutional Convention. Mr. Ellis with the committee on county boundaries paid this section a visit to decide on the boundary lines of the new county. The late 'Cap' Mitchell, editor of the *Shattuck Monitor* and a friend of Mr. Ellis, gave a party at the hotel for Mr. Ellis and the committee. It was decided there to call the new county 'Ellis.' "

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF LITTLE ROBE TOWNSHIP

History is largely the recorded events of individuals, either singly or in groups. When we read history we are reading of the activities of some person or group of persons, whether it be the discovery of a continent, the founding of an empire, or the first settlers in the wilderness.

¹ William W. Neifert (advanced to rank of Major in the Signal Corps) in "Trailing Geronimo by Heliograph," *Winners of the West* for October 30, 1935 (Vol. XII, No. 11), St. Joseph, Missouri, described the operation of the heliograph: "The heliograph or 'sun-telegraph' as it was often spoken of on the frontier, is an instrument for signalling by sunlight reflected from a mirror. Metallic mirrors were originally used, but in service, they were hard to keep bright and hard to replace if broken in the open field. Consequently, glass mirrors were adopted . . . and it was the most valuable instrument for field signaling. We used two 5-inch mirrors, mounted on heavy wooden posts, that were firmly set between the rocks. Vertical and horizontal tangent screws are attached to the mirrors by which they can be turned to face any desired direction and keep mirrors in correct position with sun's movement. As flash increases about 45 times to a mile, it could be read with the naked eye for at least fifty miles.

"Equipped with a powerful telescope and field glasses, we made frequent observations of the surrounding country so that any moving body of troops, or other men, as well as any unusual smoke or dust, might be detected and at once reported by flashing to Headquarters. Troops in the field carried portable heliograph sets that were operated by specially trained and detailed soldiers, by this means communicating through the mountain stations with Headquarters."

Acknowledgment is due Mr. Claude Hensley, of Oklahoma City for his kindness in furnishing much of the data used in these notes on the Fort Sill-Fort Reno telephone line and the telegraph line. See, W. S. Nye's *Carbine and Lance* (Norman, 1937) for mention.—Ed. (M.H.W.)

² O. H. Richards, "Memories of an 89'er," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXVI, No. 1 (Spring, 1948), pp. 2-12;, "Early Days in Day County," *ibid.*, No. 3 (Autumn, 1948), pp. 313-24.

³ Angie Debo, "Albert H. Ellis," *ibid.*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1 (Winter, 1950-51), pp. 382-89.

They go to make up the warp and woof in the fabric of our civilization. By the same token the history of Little Robe Township is a history of individuals.

Little Robe Township was the scene of some early historical activities. It is certain that this township lay in the path of Coronado when in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola. In a book written by Mrs. George A. Custer called, *Boots and Saddles*, she described some of the Indian battles in which her distinguished husband General George A. Custer, was commander. In this book she tells of the battle of the Washita. There was a running fight with the Indians extending across the western Oklahoma down to the mouth of Commission creek, where it flows into the Canadian, thence across to the Antelope Hills. The fight was continued south to the Washita where the Indians made a last stand. It was here that was fought the memorable battle of the Washita.

I read that book years ago before I came to western Oklahoma, and little I thought then, that some of the places described would later become my future home.

One of the first prominent persons to establish a temporary residence here was a gentleman by the name of Little Robe, a famous chieftain of the Cheyenne Indians. This locality was a favorite hunting ground of the Cheyennes, and Little Robe, Creek, their main camping ground. Little Robe, creek received its name from the Cheyenne chief and the township from that of the creek.

Frank Burnett was the first actual settler to locate in the township. He came in with the opening of the Cheyenne and Arapaho lands for settlement, May 1892. Mr. Burnett is still living on his original homestead. Mr. Burnett began at once to establish a home.

He planted an orchard and vineyard, and constructed irrigation ditches to irrigate his garden and orchard. Later he moved to Grand and established the first general mercantile store at that place and was twice elected County Treasurer. Returning to his farm he built a grist mill, manned by water power, put in a store, and cotton gin and established a post office called Little Robe.

In his younger days Mr. Burnett was the most active man in Day County and had more varied interests.

The next settler was George Griffis who located on the head of Little Robe creek, and the place now is known as the Tom Black ranch. Mr. Griffis built a house and planted an orchard and berry patch, and soon had one of the most attractive homes in the county.

Tom Russell arrived about that time and located on the land now owned by Austin Eggleston. A Mr. Covey located at the mouth of Little Robe, but was soon bought out by Perry Ewing father of Frank Ewing, Higgins Texas. It was here at the Ewing ranch, the late, Will Rogers drifted when he ran away from a military academy and came out here in western Oklahoma to become a cowboy. John Carr one of Mr. Ewing's cowhands informed me at the time that young Will was always practicing trick roping and playing practical jokes, and that he was ably assisted in the last pastime by Frank Ewing a youth of Willis own age. Will always insisted that Frank was funnier than he.

J. C. Haggard located in 1903 on what is known as the Ed. Eggleston farm. W. M. Hale about that time located just north of the Griffis ranch, C. V. Grace father of Veach Grace located on North Commission Creek. The place is now owned by Loyd Jones.

John Griffis located on his present homestead about the time his father George Griffis located on his. Mr. Griffis is still residing on his original homestead.

Austin Eggleston came in later and purchased the relinquishment of James Griffis. Mr. Eggleston proceeded to plant fruit trees, and has kept expanding until he has one of the largest commercial orchards in Oklahoma.

The first school house built in Little Robe township, was located on the north side of Commission Creek near the Texas Line. It was a log structure and was built by George Griffis, Josh Daniels and C. V. Grace. Mrs. Allenreed was the first teacher. The next school house erected was not far from the residence of Austin Eggleston. The first teacher was Reece Ewing now a District Judge in Texas.

The men I have mentioned here, are the bona fide settlers to locate in Little Robe township they were the trail blazers, and path finders for those who followed.

Little Robe township was originally included in that part of Old Day county known as Township Three. There was just three townships in the county, designated as One, Two and Three. Township one was all south of the Canadian river. Two, and Three that part laying north of the Canadian river. On April 6, 1903 Little Robe township was given a name, and layed out on its present boundary lines.

After statehood when Ellis county was created, the name and boundaries were never changed. Most of the townships have had their names and boundary lines changed from time to time but Little Robe still retains the same boundaries and name as when a part of Day county.

As Indians play an important part in the early history of Little Robe township there is an incident I will add that might be of interest. John Mcquigg was one of Day county's early cattleman. His ranch was located just across the river from Grand. Roving bands of Indians some times camped near his ranch. John was friendly with these Indians, and occasionally gave them a beef to butcher. One day when John was away from home, Mrs. Mcquigg had visitors. They were two Indian women. They came in without the formality of knocking and to say that Mrs. Mcquigg was frightened would be putting it mildly. She was alone with just her small daughter for company. The women began jabbering and making signs. Pointing to the frightened child clinging to her mother, They advanced to the little girl and began examining her feet. Finishing their examination the women silently departed.

In a few days the Indian women returned in the same manner, bearing a beautiful pair of tiny beaded moccasins. Handing their present to the little girl, they silently departed.

That little girl you all know. She is Mrs. Sam McConnell.

—O. H. Richards.

A RARE ITEM OFFERED BY THE '89ERS

Oklahoma—The Beautiful Land, a book published by '89ers in 1943, will soon be a collector's item of increasing value since it is a source for historical material not found elsewhere. It is a volume of unusual historical value for its reminiscent sketches of early day living by the pioneers who took part in the first opening of Oklahoma to white settlement in the Run of 1889.

A reviewer in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (Spring, issue of 1944) stated: "This volume, filled with the interesting stories and sketches relating by men and women who came to this section in 1889, sheds light on an important period of State history. . . . This book will be valuable as a reference in the study of Oklahoma history as it throws additional light on a colorful era.

Oklahoma—The Beautiful Land is different from other books on Oklahoma history in that many persons contributed to its compilation. The reminiscent sketches are living, often humorous narratives of pioneer experiences and activities, including descriptions of recreational and social gatherings in early days beginning with the Run of 1889. Dennis Flynn, Dr. A. C. Scott, Frank Greer, E. E. Brown and Victor Murdock, all well known in the writing field on Oklahoma, are among those who contributed to this volume, the first and only edition of its kind in the state.

The book contains 145 separate sketches covering 352 pages with 24 illustrations. It is printed on high gloss paper, and is bound in a hard case vellum, deluxe washable cloth. There is only a limited number of the books on hand, and *The '89ers* are offering them to the readers of *The Chronicles*, at the original price of \$2.55 per copy. Orders can be made by addressing: Miss Golda B. Slief, Recording Secretary, *The '89ers*, 705 N. E. 16th St., Oklahoma City 4, Oklahoma.

INTERTRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

The following notes on the organization of the intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes are contributed by Hon. N. B. Johnson, Justice of the State Supreme Court and member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society:

On October 20, 1949, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, representatives of the Five Civilized Tribes, representing approximately 100,000 Indians residing in Eastern Oklahoma, organized an Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, and thereafter on February 3, 1950, unanimously adopted a constitution and by-laws. The Council consists of 25 members, 5 from each of the Five Civilized Tribes, to-wit: Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole, to be selected and their tenure of office to be established by the respective tribes in a manner determined by said tribes and provides that the principal chief of the Creeks, Seminoles, Cherokees, Choctaws and the Governor of the Chickasaw nation shall be included in the membership of the Inter-tribal Council. The purpose of this organization, among other things, as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution is to secure to themselves and their descendants the rights and benefits to which they are entitled under the laws of the United States and the State of Oklahoma, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race, to preserve Indian cultural values, to enhance and promote general educational opportunity among members of the Five Civilized Tribes, to seek an equitable adjustment of tribal affairs, to secure and to preserve rights under Indian treaties with the United States and otherwise to promote the common welfare of the American Indians.

The Inter-tribal Council holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the first month of each quarter of the year. The general purpose of the Inter-tribal Council is set forth in the Preamble mentioned above and need not be repeated. It is authorized to exercise such powers as may lawfully be exercised in order to carry out the aims and objectives of the organization such as recommending legislation to the Congress of the United States and to the State Legislature, consulting and advising with the President of the United States, the Governor of Oklahoma and Federal and State officers or agencies in respect to matters affecting the interests of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma.

Represented on the Council of the Five Civilized Tribes are such statesmen as Hon. Johnston Murray, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, a Chickasaw Indian; Hon. Earl Welch, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, a Chickasaw Indian, and Hon. N. B. Johnson, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, a Cherokee Indian. The chief executives of the Five Civilized Tribes are also members: W. W. Keeler, of the Cherokee; Floyd Maytubby, of the Chickasaw; J. W. Belvin, of the Choctaw; John Davis, of the Creek, and George Harjo, of the Seminole. These tribal officers of the Five Civilized Tribes represent the professions of education, law, insurance and engineering.

Hon. Earl Welch, Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, was named first President of the Inter-tribal Council and was re-elected for a second term to serve during the calendar year 1951. Other offices are Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Chaplain and Sgt.-at-Arms. Hon. N. B. Johnson, Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, was elected President of the Council for the year 1952.

The importance of Indian participation in planning and policy making in respect to Indian Affairs in Eastern Oklahoma has long been recognized by the Congress, the leaders of the tribes represented by the Council and the General Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. It is felt that no program can be effective if it is superimposed on an unwilling or uninformed group and for some time public spirited Indians, willing to devote time, thought and energy in behalf of the Indian people have sought to bring to the attention of the Congress, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the public the needs and problems of the Indian people of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Five Civilized Tribes represent on the whole a noble experiment in race relations. Out of all the stress, trials and tribulations and experiences in a country new to both races the Indians have emerged with a high degree of progress.

Many of the State's leaders in the professions in public life and in the industries have been and now are Indians who have made a signal contribution to the social, economic and political life of the State. Notwithstanding this effective and worthwhile contribution, there is a large segment within each of the Five Tribes, living in isolated, rural communities, who because of historical factors, bad lands, bad health and lack of opportunity are submarginal socially and economically and have been prevented from becoming completely assimilated into the social and economic life of the State.

It is socially and economically unhealthy for the State to have so large a segment of its Indian citizens live below the minimum standards of health, education, economic productivity and general welfare.

The matter of welfare, education, economics and community development in Eastern Oklahoma are closely inter-related and there is a great need for a coordinated approach to these problems and a thorough study and fact finding in respect thereto should be made.

From time to time tribal officers and Indian leaders have met with W. O. Roberts, Area Director of Indian Affairs at Muskogee, Oklahoma for formal discussions and conferences in an effort to stimulate interest on the part of the Indian people in helping to solve their problems. As a result of these conferences over a three year period there has been formulated by the Area Director and his staff and Indian leaders, working through the Tribal Councils and Inter-tribal Council, a constructive program to ameliorate conditions among the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes.

It is felt that one of the reasons the Federal Government has failed to make greater progress in its dealings with the Indians is because Indian leadership in the past, for the most part, has been negative and effective only in resisting the Federal policy. The philosophy back of the organization of the Inter-tribal Council was that Indian leadership should contribute to the formulation of Federal policy and take a leading part in inquiring into the needs of Indians and make those needs vocal.

The Indian Service, as an administrative agency, is not always in the best position to influence Congressional policy.

It is believed that with the type of Indian leadership embodied in the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes this Council, in cooperation with other agencies, charged with Indian Affairs, will be able to formulate a constructive Federal policy and a worthwhile program for the Indians of Eastern Oklahoma that will secure for them equal opportunities and hasten the day when they will be fully integrated into community life of the State.

DR. KARL SCHMITT FATALLY INJURED

As copy for the autumn number of *The Chronicles* was sent to press, the Editorial Department and friends were shocked and grieved to hear of the death of Dr. Karl Schmitt, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma, on August 6, 1952, as the result of an automobile accident at Magdalena, New Mexico. Dr. Schmitt was a promising young writer on anthropological subjects in his work at the University, and had contributed a number of interesting articles to *The Chronicles*, including the summer number, 1952. His friends will want to see his necrology that is promised the Editorial Department for publication in a future issue of the magazine.

TO THE MEMORY OF THE REVEREND W.N.P. DAILEY, D.D.

Friends in the Oklahoma Historical Society and in the mission work of the Dutch Reformed Church in Oklahoma are saddened to hear of the death of the Reverend W.N.P. Dailey, D.D., in his 90th year on August 28, 1952, at his summer home in Pottersville, New York. Dr. Dailey, a retired minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in America, had long served as historian of his church, and was well known as a writer on New York State history for publications in the East. Dr. Dailey's interest in Oklahoma dated back to his college day friendship in the early 1880's, with the late Rev. Frank Hall Wright who with two brothers as well as the father, the Rev. Allen

Wright, of the Choctaw Nation, are counted among the alumni of Union College in Schenectady, New York, which was also Dr. Dailey's Alma Mater. He was a personal friend of the late Rev. and Mrs. Walter C. Roe, early missionaries to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, at Colony, Oklahoma. For many years an enthusiastic member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Dr. Dailey was a contributor to *The Chronicles*; it was through his special interest and efforts that the history of the Dutch Reformed Church missions in Oklahoma was written by the Rev. Richard H. Harper, D. D., and published in *Chronicles*, Vol. XVIII, No. 3 and No. 4 (1940).

One of the last communications received by the Editorial Department, from Dr. Dailey brought an item on Indian history contributed for Notes and Documents in *The Chronicles*, a copy of a brief article on Brig. Gen. Ely S. Parker, the Seneca Indian who was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1869, by President Grant. Gen. Parker served in this position when President Grant appointed the western Indian agents from the Friends Society, the noted "Quaker Agents" in the history of Oklahoma. As a colonel on General Grant's staff in the War between the States, Parker had been appointed and served as one of the U. S. commissioners on the "Southern Treaty Commission" at the Fort Smith Council in September, 1865, that met with delegations of each of the Five Civilized Tribes and other tribes of the Indian Territory, lately in alliance with the Confederate States.⁴ The Fort Smith Council that met on September 8, 1865, continuing to September 21 was one of the most important events in the history of the tribes in the Indian Territory. Indian delegations present included Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, Seneca, Shawnee, Osage and Quapaw.

The recent contribution from Dr. Dailey is presented here, a brief article from the *Grand Lodge Bulletin*, Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., for June, 1951, page 208:

RED JACKET AND GEORGE WASHINGTON
By H. I. Haywood

In his own fashion, and according to the circumstances of his time, Eli Samuel Parker (born in 1828) was one of the greatest of all American Indians; certainly that would be true of the State of New York in which he was born and where more Indian history was made in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries than any where else.

Brother Parker (a zealous Mason) attended school until eighteen, then read law but was refused admittance to the bar because he was an Indian, and therefore not a citizen of the land of his fathers (his own land too). He then attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and became a civil engineer.

Even in those early days this young Indian began to become an outstanding man. He was a friend, and more, than once a dinner companion of President and Brother James K. Polk. While superintending engineering works in Galena, Illinois, he became a close friend of Ulysses S. Grant.

⁴ *Report*, 1865, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, pp. 296-358.

In 1863 he became Grant's military secretary, and in that capacity was present at Lee's surrender. Lee raised his brows to see an Indian on Grant's staff. And then occurred one of the most romantic moments in the whole history of the Indian peoples! Adjutant General T. S. Bowers was too nervous to write the terms of capitulation (he felt history breathing down his neck) therefore Grant ordered Parker to write out the official document Lee signed!

In 1867 he [Parker] was made Brigadier General of the Regular Army, after having continued to be Grant's military secretary. In the meantime, and as the following quotation from Parker himself will show, which tells its own story, and which adds a memorable episode to the history of George Washington's Masonic career, is from Volume I, page 231, of *History of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in New York* by Charles T. McClenachan, published by the Grand Lodge of New York, 1888:

Eli S. Parker, a full-blooded chief of the Six Nations, and grandson of the renowned Red Jacket, was a highly educated and eloquent speaker with charming action. In alluding to himself at a banquet in a Western city (remarked an earnest Masonic Brother who was present) he said:

"I am almost the sole remnant of what was once a noble race, which is rapidly disappearing as the dew before the morning sun. I found my race wasting away, and I asked myself, where shall I find home and sympathy, when our last council fire is extinguished? I said, I will knock at the door of Masonry, and see if the white race will recognize me, as they did my ancestors when we were strong and the white man weak. I knocked at the door of the Blue Lodge, and found brotherhood around its altar; I went before the great light in the Chapter, and found companionship beneath the Royal Arch. I entered the Encampment, and found there valiant Sir Knights willing to shield me without regard to race or nation. I am happy to meet you in the grand councils of the gathering, and to share these greetings and hospitalities. I feel assured that when my glass is run out, and I shall follow the footsteps of my departed race, Masonic sympathizers will cluster around my coffin, and drop in my lonely grave the evergreen acacia, sweet emblem of a better meeting. If my race shall disappear from the continent, I have a consoling hope that our memory shall not perish. If the deeds of my ancestors shall not live in stories, their memories will remain in the names of our lakes and rivers, your towns and cities, and will call up memories otherwise forgotten."

Few eyes could withhold the tears, as he poured forth in words like these the utterance of a full heart. Silence for a time prevailed after he had sat down, when he [again] arose and said, "I have in my possession a memento which I highly prize. I wear it near my heart. It came from my ancestors to me as their successor in office. It was a present from Washington to my grandfather, RED JACKET, when our nation was in its infancy. You will be glad to see and handle it, and I should do wrong not to give you the opportunity."

As he spoke thus he removed the wampum from his neck, and drew from his bosom a large massive medal, in oval form, about seven inches by five, and it passed from hand to hand along the tables. On one side of this medal were engraved, in full length, the figures of two chiefs, RED JACKET, in costume, presenting the pipe of peace, and WASHINGTON with right hand extended, as in the act of receiving it. On the other side the Masonic emblems, with the date, 1792.