

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

DR. McCASH REPORTS THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL TOURS POPULAR

The Oklahoma Historical Tours sponsored annually for the past three years by the Oklahoma Historical Society have aroused great interest in the State's history according to Dr. I. N. McCash, President Emeritus of Phillips University, and Honorary Director and Member of the Historical Society. The first of these was a three-day tour through South Central and Southeastern Oklahoma in May, 1952; the second, a three day tour through Western Oklahoma and the Panhandle in June, 1953. These were attended by large groups of members and friends of the Society, and gained for this annual event well deserved popularity this year when another three-day tour was made through North Central and Northeastern Oklahoma (May 6, 7, 8, 1954). Dr. McCash made this report in a recent letter to the President of the Society:

Lenoir Memorial Home
Columbia, Missouri
July 20, 1954

General William S. Key, President
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma Natural Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
My dear friend:

Newspaper items, radio commentators and official reports rank the Oklahoma Historical Caravan of 1954, highest in the number participating, region encompassed and historical material garnered. The plan to put the Oklahoma Historical Society on wheels, once a year, to acquaint Oklahomans with their aggressive society which preserves relics of educational values, is fully justified.

Through you, Mr. President, I wish to express my profound appreciation of the honor of being made an honorary director for life, of so noble an organization. Fellowship for many years with members of lofty ideals and unselfish purposes, make me a legatee of many memories. I hope health will permit me to sit in, as a listener, sometime in the quarterly assembly.

May mounting achievements reward all efforts of officers and life members through coming years.

Yours with high esteem,

Most sincerely,
(Signed) I. N. McCash

The 1955 Historical Tour will be held three days the latter part of April, and will follow modern highways and country roads along the route travelled by Washington Irving when he visited Oklahoma in 1832, and later described in this book, *A Tour on the Prairies*. Word has come that a large group from the Tarrytown region

around Irving's old home, in New York, will visit Oklahoma for the 1955 Historical Tour. Members of the Society and others interested in making this tour should send in their reservations by March 15, 1955, to the Secretary, Oklahoma Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE RECORDS IN OKLAHOMA HISTORY

The following corrections are made of two errors that occurred in printing the article on "General Douglas H. Cooper, C.S.A.," by Muriel H. Wright, appearing in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* for summer, 1954 (Vol. XXXII, No. 2): The reference to the second battle against the Creek leader, Opatheysahole, on page 165, lines 32 and 33, should read, "in the second battle, at Chusto Talasah (December 9, northeast of Tulsa near present Turley," making the correction in the name of the battle and in the date. Again, the reference to the signing of the truce (or surrender) of the Chickasaw forces, Confederate States Army, at the end of the War (1865) on page 190, line 3, the date of this event should be corrected to read "July 14."

—M.H.W.

In the 4th line, footnote 1, page 142, the name "Elizabeth" should read "Emma" (Emma Buckner Heiston Butts).

BLOOMFIELD SEMINARY ANSWERS

The questions asked in the Winter, 1953 issue of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* (Vol. XXXI, No. 4, Page 444) have now been answered. Since the notation in that issue of *The Chronicles* on the Bloomfield Centennial, letters from Mrs. Alex (Lula Burris) Rennie of Durant add an important footnote to the published data on this important school.

2/7/54

Regarding the date of the death of Holmes Colbert, she writes:

My husband's mother, the late Mrs. Alexander Bennie, Sr. was a half sister of the Hon. Holmes Colbert. She made her home with us for many years. I have heard her say many, many times "Brother Holmes was a Statesman, he wrote the Constitution for the Chickasaw National government and was in Washington D. C. attending to National affairs when he died there and his body lay in state in Washington until the completion of the M. K. and T. Railroad then under construction.

His body was returned to Indian Territory on the first passenger train that came over M. K. and T. Railroad and was received by his family at old Colbert Station, then taken across country ten miles for burial in the Bloomfield Cemetery." His home then known as "The Colbert Plantation" was five miles south of Bloomfield on the Red River. Hendricks, Oklahoma has been built on that site. Although the original house has been remodeled, the old chimneys and much of the material are still in use. Much Indian History has been handed down by "word of mouth" so, the answer to your mystery was given to me.

Mrs. Frankie Overton Love, a grand niece of the Hon. Holmes whom I consider the most reliable source of family information as her 89 years old mother passed on only two years ago.

Foremost in interest was my visit to "Aunt Polly Colbert" 103 years old, family servant (ex-slave) who was given to Mr. Colbert at the time of his marriage by his mother.

Mrs. Love has the same information concerning Mr. Colbert's death as I wrote in my letter of April 2nd. We agree that the date on the grave stone—March 24—1873 is authentic.

"Aunt Polly" at 103 is remarkable—is in full possession of her faculties. I said, "Aunt Polly, tell me what you know about Mr. Holmes Colbert." She smiled, raised her right hand to her breast and replied: "I know he was a good Master—my Master. I was studying about him last night." I showed her the *Chronicles* and told her a man is writing about him and what information I had written you and asked if that was all true.

"Yes. He died in Washington and was brought home on the first Passenger train that came over the Katy railroad."

We were in Colbert. She pointed to the station site and said, "They took my Master off right there, put the coffin in a wagon drawn by two grey mules and we followed him to the Bloomfield graveyard."

I asked, "Aunt Polly, how long did his body lie in state in Washington?" She promptly and positively replied, "Five years." Using language that she would understand, I again asked, "Did they bury him there, then dig the body up where they were ready to bring him home?"

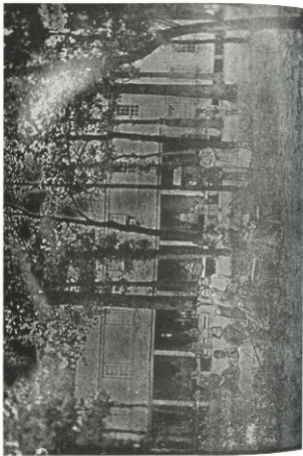
"Oh, no!" She struggled for a word, then said, "Dey pickled him, and after five years he looked natural 'cept his nose was a little dark."

Mrs. Rennie has also called attention to an important aspect of the Seminary, and that was the fact that through the period of its existence at this site, the Academy occupied three different buildings. She writes:

You mention the original building, erected in 1852, also the building in 1896, but omit entirely the one constructed in 1869-70 which was destroyed by fire October 15, 1896. When the original Bloomfield building was condemned, a new building was erected on a new location in Section 5, several hundred yards northwest of the former site, the erection line dividing the two locations. This second Bloomfield building is pictured opposite page 276 in *O'Brien's Leaders and Leading Men of Indian Territory* and was burned October 15, 1896. Then on October 24, 1898, the Chickasaw Legislature appropriated \$14,000.00 for the 3rd Bloomfield which was erected on the exact spot as the one just destroyed. The 3rd building was destroyed by fire January 24, 1914. At the time of the October 15, 1896 fire, the original Bloomfield building was still standing and housed the families who did the laundry for the school. This record, I know to be correct. I was a very young girl, fleet of foot so I was chosen by Prof. E. B. Hinshaw to run across the prairie to the old building and summon the men to help fight the fire.

The second building was erected under an Act approved November 13, 1869 by Gov. Wm. L. Byrd. This Act provided:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Chickasaw Nation That a committee of three competent persons, residents of Panola County



Mountfield Seminary. Original building erected in 1962. Photograph taken in 1970.



Bloomfield Seminary. Last building erected in 1896, burned in ~~1904~~ 1917



Bloomfield Seminary. Second building erected in 1889, burned in 1896.

who shall be appointed by the Governor to be styled a "Building Committee" who shall select a good, healthy and suitable location, not exceeding five miles distant from Bloomfield Academy, which shall be known as the Bloomfield Academy.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That the Building Committee shall use discretion and good judgment in selecting a location convenient to wood and water, and a sufficient quantity of land fit for cultivation, and other conveniences suitable and necessary for a first class boarding school, and after such selections shall have been made, the committee shall proceed at once to let the contract for building said Bloomfield Academy to the lowest and best bidder.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That when the Committee, when advertising the letting of the contract to build said Academy, shall give dimensions, style of work, and such other specifications, as may be necessary to give a definite plan of the kind of structure contemplated in this act.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That the committee shall enter into a written contract with the contractor to whom the contract for erecting said academy may be awarded, upon such terms and agreements best adapted to a speedy and satisfactory consummation of the provisions of this Act, with this restriction, that no payment on said contract shall be made earlier than 1862, and paid by installments from that time on until completed.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That as the installments become due agreeable to contract, the committee shall issue a certificate stating the amount due the contractor, and the Auditor of Public Accounts shall issue a warrant for the payment of the same on the National Treasurer.

Section 6. Be it further enacted, That when said Academy is completed and received by the committee, they shall report the same to the School Superintendent, and shall receive three dollars pr day each, while in actual service, to be paid out of the National Treasury, upon presentation of the school Superintendent certifying the number of days each committee served.

Section 7. Be it further enacted, That the sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8000.00) or so much that is necessary be and the same is hereby appropriated to pay for said Academy when completed according to contract, that is in the hands of the National Treasurer or that may come in his hands, after said Academy is completed and received by the Building Committee.

Section 8. Be it further enacted, That when said Academy is completed and received by the Building Committee, the school superintendent shall cause to be removed at the expense of the Nation, the children now at Bloomfield Academy to the new academy which shall be styled and known as "Bloomfield Academy," with the household, kitchen furniture and all effects that belong to said academy, and upon a certificate from the superintendent of Public Schools to the Auditor of Public Accounts shall issue his warrant on the National Treasurer, who shall pay the same out of any money in his hands, or that may come into his hands, and this Act shall repeal all Acts or parts of Acts coming in conflict with the provisions of this Act, and that this Act take effect from and after its passage.

The final building was erected in accordance with a later enactment approved October 24, 1896 by Gov. R. M. Harris. This act provided:

Sec. 1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Chickasaw Nation—that the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Trustees of Bloomfield Seminary be and they are hereby authorized empowered and directed to have drawn the necessary plan and specifications for the re-building of the Bloomfield Seminary—And thereupon immediately contract with some suitable reliable and able person or persons for the building and erection thereof—at or near the place where the former buildings were burned—and the Superintendent and Trustees shall Superintend said work and have the same built after the plan of the old buildings with such necessary changes as may be most conducive to the comfort and welfare of said Institution—and to use every means to have the same completed and ready for school purposes by the first of February 1897—or as soon thereafter as practicable—having in view a neat substantial and durable building out of either frame or Brick Structure as may be most convenient and expeditious in the building thereof—Bids for said building may be advertised for, or the contract let privately as may be found best to save time and expedite said work—And the Superintendent shall have an itemized account of all judicious expenditures and report the same to the Governor when the buildings have reached a completion—and by him the Governor laid before the succeeding Legislature for its information—together with the services rendered by the Superintendent and Trustees for allowance thereof as the Legislature will determine—And the Sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars \$14,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the money to become due the Chickasaw Nation known as the Febv and July payments, and interest on Chickasaw Trust funds held by the U. S. Government—said moneys coming due in Febv and July 1897—in proportion of two thirds of amount to be paid out of said Febv payment 1897, and one third out of the July payment 1897—and if from any cause such payments due the contractor on building said Seminary should not be met as contemplated by this act—then such unpaid accounts shall draw an interest at the rate of 8% eight percent per annum from date of Maturity until paid by this Nation which shall be computed and paid the same as the principal amount—and the contract as made by the Superintendent and Trustees with the builder shall be in keeping with the provisions and stipulations of this act—and the Auditor shall draw his warrants on said National Treasurer upon the certificates of the Superintendent and Trustees signed jointly for the payments coming under this act and the Treasurer shall pay the same out of the moneys herein specially appropriated for such purposes—and immediately after said Seminary has been re-built in all respects—and the same is received by the Superintendent and Trustees—The Superintendent and Trustees shall then proceed to at once inform the contractor of said school of the fact of the buildings being ready to commence the school—and in the mean time public notice shall be given the people of the Ume. at which the school will open for business so the girls can be allowed to enter said school—as heretofore and proceed with such school work—

The provisions and appropriation of this act is intended to rebuild and supply said Seminary with all needful contents as is required of the Chickasaw Nation by contract to supply—if sufficient therefor—and all expenditures shall be accounted for by the Superintendent and Trustees with such recommendations as will be most conducive to the welfare and prosperity of said Seminary—and this act take effect from and after its passage.

Mrs. Rennie writes as follows regarding the circumstances of the 1914 fire:

"Mrs. Mark Marable (Lucretia Perry) was a six year old primary student in Bloomfield at the time of the 1914 fire. She well recalls the

circumstances. The girl who set the fire was Louisa McGuire, 20 years old, a full blood Indian, definitely retarded as she was in the same primary class. Lucretia remembers the teacher struggling to teach Louisa to print the A.D.C.'s. There was never any doubt about her not wanting to go to school as she ran away from Bloomfield twice and was brought back each time wearing shoes and clothing that did not belong to her. As a final escape she burned the building."

"We have heard she was sent to a girls' Reformatory somewhere in Indiana but do not know for how long nor if she is yet alive."

"The fire occurred about 10:00 A.M. as the Bloomfield girls were once again in the original building to await the arrival of their parents and guardians. My Bloomfield attendance was unique. I was taken there at the age of eight to join my older sister—attended school in the original building, near the cemetery one week when the school moved across to the new building, then attended school in that second building until it burned. While the third Bloomfield was being re-built I was sent to Kidd-Kay College in Sherman, Texas, then when school was resumed, I returned to graduate from Bloomfield Seminary."

Mrs. Rennie also supplies the answer for the identity of Little Kitten":

"Mrs. Murray was quite familiar with the old Bloomfield Cemetery. She says, "Little Kitty" was the child of the founder of Bloomfield, Rev. J. H. Carr and Mrs. Angelina H. Carr."

Even the bois d'arc stakes received Mrs. Rennie's attention, and on that point she has written:

"In regard to the bois d'arc posts in the old Bloomfield cemetery, I have been unable to get any definite information. Those of us familiar with the cemetery in the early years recall, a few of the family burial lots were fenced. The following is merely a matter of opinion. During the W.P.A. years, Judge R. L. Williams made a great effort toward preserving the old cemetery."

"It may be that he saw many unmarked graves and had the bois d'arc stakes placed to mark the locations."

"I tried to locate some one who worked on the project but failed to do so."

Published herewith are photographs of each of the three buildings. Mrs. Rennie's help is a contribution to the available information on Bloomfield and *The Chronicle* is pleased to make it here a matter of record.

—George H. Shirk

RECENT ACCESSIONS IN THE LIBRARY

The following list of books (325) was accessioned and cataloged in the Library of the Oklahoma Historical Society, from July 1, 1953 to July 1, 1954, and compiled by Mrs. Edith Mitchell, Cataloger:

- Abee, Blanch Humphrey. *Colonists of Carolina in the lineage of Hon. W. D. Humphrey*. Richmond, Va.: The William Byrd Press, 1938. 259 pp.
- Adams, Ramon Frederick. *Six-guns and Saddle Leather; a bibliography of books and pamphlets on Western outlaws and gunmen*. Norman: Univ. of Okla. Press, 1954. 426 pp.
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- Allen, Agnes. *The Story of the Book*. London: Faber & Faber, 1953. 224 pp.
- American Antiquarian Society. *Proceedings, 1951, 1952*. Worcester, Mass. Vols. 61, 62.
- American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia. *Records, 1952*. Vol. 63. 252 pp.
- American Genealogical-Biographical Index. Fremont Rider, Editor. Middletown, Conn., 1953, 1954. Vols. 3-7.
- American Historical Association. *Annual Report, 1951, 1952*. Washington, D. C.
- American Jewish Archives, 1948-1952. Cincinnati, Ohio: Hebrew Union College. Vols. 1-4.
- American Library Association. *A L A Bulletin, 1952*. Chicago, Ill. Vol. 46. 437 pp.
- Anderson, Robert T. *Canadian Born and other Western verse*. Edmonton, Cana., 1913. 100 pp.
- Arkansas Historical Quarterly, 1952. Fayetteville, Ark. Vol. 11. 350 pp.
- Asch, Sholem. *A Passage in the Night*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1953. 367 pp.
- Atheam, Robert G. *Westward the Brison*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953. 208 pp.
- Atlanta Historical Society. *Bulletin, 1927-1948*. Atlanta, Ga. 6 Vols.
- Bancroft, Frederick. *Slave-trading in the Old South*. Baltimore, Md.: J. H. Furst Company, 1931. 415 pp.
- Battle, J. H. *Kentucky, a History of the State*. Louisville, Ky., 1885. 1058 pp.
- Battle of Round Mountains*, a collection of documents. Compiled by Payne County Historical Society, Stillwater, Okla., 1949. 90 pp.
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- Benton, Patricia. *The Young Cora Risco*. New York: Vantage Press, 1953. 47 pp.
- Bernstein, Harry. *Origins of Inter-American Interests, 1700-1812*. Phila., Pa.: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1945. 125 pp.
- Bible, N. T. *The Gospel of John, the Apostle, in Cherokee and English, 1948*. 83 pp.
- Books Abroad, a Literary Quarterly*. 25th Anniversary No., 1927-1952. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Vol. 26.
- Black Elk, Oglala Indian. *The Sacred Pipe*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953. 144 pp.
- Bloomfield-Carter School, A Century of Progress . . . 1852-1952*.
- Eastern Almanac, The . . . 1896*. S. N. Dickinson, Compiler. Vol. 1.
- Breihen, Carl W. . . . *Life of Jesse James*. New York: F. Fell, 1953. 287 pp.
- Brewer, J. Mason. *The Word on the Braros*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1953. 109 pp.
- British Columbia Historical Quarterly, 1950, 1951*. Victoria: British Columbia Archives. Vols. 14, 15.
- Brown, Harriett C. *Grandmother Snow's Hundred Years, 1827-1927*. Boston: Little, etc. 1930. 369 pp.
- Brown, Horatio F., Compiler. *John Addington Symonds, a biography*. London: Smith, Elder & Company, 1903. 495 pp.
- Bryan, T. Coon. *Confederate Georgia*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1953. 299 pp.
- Burra, John H. *Spanish Speaking Groups in the United States*. Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 1954. 214 pp.
- Burra, Annie Walker, Compiler. *Abstracts of pensions . . . Kentucky*. Washington, D. C.

- Calhoun, John C. *Fundamentals of Reservoir Engineering*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953. 417 pp.
- Callahan, Robert E. *Heart of an Indian*. . . . New York: F. H. Hitchcock, 379 pp.
- Canadian Historical Review*, 1951. University of Toronto, Canada. Vol. 32. 434 pp.
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- Choctaw Nation. *Constitution, Laws and Treaties*. Dallas, Texas, 1894. 352 pp.
- Choctaw Nation of Indians. *Memorial Claims under Treaty of 1839*. Washington, D. C., 1836. 69 pp.
- Cocannouer, Joseph A. *Farming with Natives*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. 147 pp.
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- Cooper, Courtney Riley. *The Last Frontier*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1923. 304 pp.
- Cottrell, Robert Spencer. *The Southern Indians*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. 255 pp.
- Cotton, Bruce. *A Salliness at Appomattox*. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1954. 438 pp.
- Crandon, Michael. *Hunting and Fishing in North America*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953. 394 pp.
- Crawford, Lewis F. *Rehindling Camp Fire*. Bismarck N. D.: Capitol Book Co., 1925. 324 pp.
- Croy, Homer. *Our Wild Regions*. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1953. 177 pp.
- Carie, Evr. *Nadame Carie, a Biography*. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1938. 412 pp.
- Current Literature Publishing Company Magazine*. New York, 1890. Vols. 4, 5.
- Dale, Philip Marshall. *Medical Biographies*. . . . Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952. 259 pp.
- Daughters of American Revolution. Illinois. Mary Little Deere Chapter. *Genealogical Records*. Moline, Ill., 1953. 193 pp.
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- DeGraff, Herrell F. and Haystead, Ladd. *The Business of Farming*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1948. 244 pp.
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- DeSmet, Rev. P. J. *Western Missions and Missionaries*. New York, 1858. 532 pp.
- Deamond, Alice Curtis. *General Tom Thumb*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1954. 236 pp.
- Dickerson, Oliver M. *Navigational Acts of the American Revolution*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1951. 344 pp.
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- Early, Eleanor. *New York Holiday*. New York: Rinehart & Co., 1950. 376 pp.
- Earnest, Ernest S. *Fair Mitchell*, novelist and physician. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1950. 279 pp.
- Eaton, Clement. *A History of the Southern Confederacy*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1954. 351 pp.
- Eisele, Fannie L. (Gopfert). *A History of Covington, Garfield County, Oklahoma, and surrounding country*. Covington, Okla., 1952. 214 pp.
- Encyclopedia Americana*. New York; Chicago; Washington, D. C.: Americana Corporation, 1964. 30 Vols.
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- Fleming, Edward McClung. *Richard Rogers Bowker, militant liberal*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952. 395 pp.
- Flore, Snowden Dwight. *Tornadoes in the United States*, new ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952. 221 pp.
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- Georgia Pension List*. Lucy Kate McGhee, Comp. Revised to 1883. Wash. D. C.
- Glascock, Carl Burgess. *Bandits and the Southern Pacific*. New York: F. A. Stokes, 1929. 294 pp.
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- Hestral, Stewart. *Keys to Successful Interviewing*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. 223 pp.
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- Hiett, Noble W. and Lucy F. *The Sitter-smiths of Kentucky, 1785-1850*. Louisville, Ky.: Standard Print Company, 1954. 135 pp.
- Horn, Rowell Randall, Editor. *Septimal and Marriage Records of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, N. Y., 1680-1810*. New York: DeVine Press, 1891. 797 pp.
- Howes, Charles C. *This Place Called Kansas*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952. 236 pp.
- Hulvey, Charles Newton. *Farmer's Compensation and Auto Insurance* (Virginia University Institute for Social Research. Monograph No. 11) New York: Century Company, 1931. 203 pp.
- Ingels, Margaret. *Willis Houtland Carrier, father of air conditioning*. Garden City, N. Y.: Country Life Press, 1952. 170 pp.
- Jackson, William Turrentine. *Fagan Roads West . . . 1846-1869*. Berkeley, Calif.: University Press, 1952. 422 pp.
- James, Marquis. *The Texas Story: the first fifty years, 1802-1852*. New York, 1953. 116 pp.
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- Johnson, Eunice Tolbert, Compiler. *History of Perry County, Kentucky*. Written and published by D. A. R., Hazard Chapter, 1953. 286 pp.
- Johnson, Sir William. *The Papers of . . .* Albany, N. Y.: New York University, 1953. 994 pp.
- Journal of Politics*, 1949, 1950, 1953. Gainesville, Fla.: Southern Political Science Association. Vols. 11, 12, 15.
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