

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Change of address contemplated by a member of the Historical Society or subscriber to *The Chronicles* should be sent immediately to the Oklahoma Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma. Copies of the magazine are not forwarded to the new address by the postmaster but are returned to the Oklahoma Historical Society at our expense. The co-operation of anyone on our mailing list in the matter of change of address will save unnecessary delay in receiving the quarterly magazine as well as save the Historical Society the payment of postage three times on a single copy.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY CORRECTED

A paragraph of two sentences should be deleted from my article, "The Founding of El Reno," the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (Spring, 1956), p. 80. In speaking of John A. Foreman, a dozen years before El Reno was founded, I confused him with John Anthony Foreman who in 1876 was elected steward of the Cherokee Asylum for the Insane, Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, near Tahlequah.

For an excellent sketch of the life of John Anthony Foreman see Joseph B. Thoburn, *A Standard History of Oklahoma*, Vol. III, pp. 1264-1266. He was a Cherokee, a sergeant in the Confederate army, and the name of his second wife was Amanda. John A. Foreman (no middle name) was a white man, a major in the Union army, and the name of his first wife was Armanda. Thoburn included both Foremans in one index citation.

This error in mistaken identity has been brought to my attention, and in order that others may avoid the pitfall, the following citations concerning John Anthony Foreman are here listed as found in the Oklahoma Historical Society: Indian Archives, Cherokee, Vol. 680, pp. 1, 14, 35, 46; The Authenticated Rolls of Cooweescoowee District, Cherokee Nation, 1880; The Census of Cooweescoowee District, 1890; Indian Pioneer History, Vol. 81, p. 21; and Miata Ross Foreman, "Reverend Stephen Foreman, Cherokee Missionary," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Sept., 1940), pp. 229-242.

—B. B. Chapman

PENS USED IN SIGNING THE CONSTITUTION OF OKLAHOMA

Former Governor Henry S. Johnston recently presented to a history class at Oklahoma A. & M. College the half dozen pens he used July 16, 1907, in signing the Constitution of Oklahoma, when he represented District 17 in the Convention at Guthrie. The pens are to be held in trust for history students in the college, and in the University of Oklahoma. They will be preserved jointly by the archival divisions of the college and university libraries. When Johnston signed the Constitution he wrote the following notation on his letterhead as a Perry attorney:

"Pens used by me in signing the Constitution. They are labeled: Parchment, Johnston; Parchment, Johnston: Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3, Paper 4, Paper 5, Paper 6; Legislative. Under rules as they existed when the 1st adjournment was had and the Constitution signed to wit April 19, 1907, there were to be seven originals. These seven were signed, six on paper and one on parchment. As I signed each I used a different pen.

"I numbered each signature and numbered the pen to correspond on the paper enrollments. The parchment I signed with two pens. 'Henry S.' with one and the surname 'Johnston' with the other. 'Henry S.' was given to Dr. Fred C. Sells, Perry, Okla.; the one labeled 'Legislative' I received on vote of the Convention in honor of my services to that department and more especially for the Initiative and Referendum. This is the pen which was used in signing the same by Mr. Murray. The pen labeled 'Parchment, July 16,' is the one with which I signed the now official sheepskin.—Henry S. Johnston."

Johnston wrapped the pens in an envelope bearing the printed address, "Constitutional Convention, State of Oklahoma, Guthrie, Oklahoma." This he inserted in a large substantial envelope and labeled it, "Do not open." After nearly fifty years, in a classroom filled to overflow with Aggies, he drew out the pens and formally presented them to Roberta Elliott of Perry, who received them on behalf of her classmates. Johnston authored fifty-one sections of the Constitution, and was chairman of the Democratic caucus in the convention.

Oklahoma history students look forward annually to the visit of Governor and Mrs. Johnston to the campus. There is no day in our college course that gives students a more realistic understanding of the making of the Constitution, or of the political activities of the roaring twenties, than "Johnston Day."

An account of the presentation of the pens and a photo of the transfer is in the *Tac Perry Daily Journal*, May 13, 1956.

—B. B. Chapman



Ex-Gov. Henry S. Johnston, with Mrs. Johnston to his right, presenting the pens that he used in signing the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma on July 16, 1907. Presentation was made to history students of Oklahoma A. and M. College on May 17, 1956.

RESTORATION OF NOTED CHEROKEE HISTORIC SITES IN GEORGIA

Public spirited citizens and civic leaders, especially of Calhoun, who have worked for the restoration of New Echota, the old Cherokee capital near that City in Georgia, have the full co-operation of the Georgia Historical Commission in this great project. The plan is to restore the original buildings on their locations on the townsite of New Echota and develop the place as a Museum-Park.

The report of Henry T. Malone, Department of History, Atlanta Division, University of Georgia, to the Georgia Historical Commission, was published under the title "New Echota-Capital of the Cherokee Nation, 1825-1830" in *Early Georgia* (Vol. 1, No. 4, Spring, 1955), the quarterly magazine of the Society for Preservation of Early Georgia History. Other papers on the subject are in this same number of *Early Georgia*: "Symbols of a Civilization that Perished in its Infancy" by J. Roy McGinty, Editor, *The Calhoun Times*"; and "The Excavations of New Echota in 1954" by Clements De Bailou. These papers review, respectively, the history of New Echota as a town, its place in the story of Georgia and the excavations carried on at the site up to 1955, all of absorbing interest in the history of the Cherokee Nation that had a prominent place in the history of Oklahoma.

Dr. Malone's careful research reveals data that prove conclusively the exact location of New Echota as shown on the original field notes made by Stephen Drane, Georgia's State surveyor in 1832. It was at Newtown, the seat of the Cherokee government near the junction of the Coosawatee and the Connesauga rivers beginning in 1820, that the Cherokee National Council issued a resolution on November 12, 1825, establishing the townsite of the new capital of the nation. This provided the marking of a townsite of one hundred lots of one acre square each, and a public square of two acres on the Connesauga, to be called "Echota." The resolution was signed by John Ross, President of the National Committee; Major Ridge, Speaker; Pathkiller, Principal Chief; Charles Renatus Hicks, Assistant Chief; Alexander McCoy, Clerk of the Committee, and Elias Boudinot, Clerk of the National Council. John Martin, George Sanders and Walter S. Adair who were members of a commission appointed by John Ross to superintend the work carried on the plans. A printing office of hewed logs was erected according to specifications where the first number of the *Cherokee Phoenix* was published on February 28, 1828. The two Cherokee government buildings were one to house the National Supreme Court and another, the National Council. The main tavern was that of Alexander McCoy who operated a ferry on the river. There were several business houses and a post office near the government buildings. The residences included the Reverend Samuel Worcester's house, the only original building still standing on the

site of New Echota, besides several known from early descriptions; the attractive home of Elias Boudinot, "the large beautiful residence of Elijah Hicks,—member of the Senate from Coossegatah," the "handsome cottage residence of Jno. F. Wheeler, the printer." Excavations under the direction of Mr. De Baillon on the townsite have disclosed the footings and other evidences of the main buildings, and have revealed stone artifacts (prehistoric Indian) and rich cultural materials of the old capital days—forks and knives with carved bone handles, hand-painted English china and Sequoyah type used on the printing press of the *Phoenix*. Temporary markers on the site of New Echota indicate the location of some of the buildings.

Mr. Henry B. Bass, member of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors, and his brother, Mr. John H. Bass, visited the New Echota project in Georgia this last May, and have sent enthusiastic reports with some photographs of this and the restoration of the "Vann House" near the old Moravian Mission at Spring Place, east of Echota, in Murray County, Georgia. The *Newsletter* published by the Georgia Department of Commerce for September, 1955, carries a fine view of the restored "Vann House" on the front cover, and devotes a short article to its history. Located three miles west of Chatsworth, the County Seat of Murray County, the old ruin of the Vann House was purchased from the private owner, and deeded to the State of Georgia. The Georgia Historical Commission restored the building at a cost of \$40,000. A large collection of relics and objects relating to Cherokee history are to be housed in this historical dwelling as a museum. The Historical Commission has planned tours to visit these historic sites in Northwest Georgia, all of which are of deep interest to the people of Oklahoma as a part of its own prelude in history.

The following letter from Mr. C. N. Gregory, Director of the Georgia Historical Commission, tells of its work on the restoration projects.¹

Mr. Henry B. Bass,
Bass Building,
Etope, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Bass:

Thank you very much for the pictures of Mr. Kurts and me which I received in this morning's mail.

After meeting you during the tour of the Chicago Civil War Round Table at the McNeel home in Marietta, I tried to find the memo I made of your initials and address in order to carry out my promise to send you some

¹A note on "The Old Vann House," the title of a paper read before the Rotary Club of Georgia, by Mrs. E. J. Bandy was published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXXII, No. 1 (Spring, 1964), pp. 94-9, reviewing the history of this early Georgia residence, the home of "Rich Joe" Vann who is known in Oklahoma history as a Cherokee settler at Webbers Falls on the Arkansas River.



Van Hook House restored near Spring Place, Georgia. Built by James Van Hook of Cherokee Nation, 1799.



Worcester House, ruins on site of New Echota, restoration project near Callahan, Georgia, 1955.



Site of Cherokee Court House, New Echota, restoration project, 1958.



Site of McCoy's Tavern, New Echota, restoration project, 1956.

information about the Vann House. I remembered your name, but could not find the address. Therefore I had to wait until I heard from you to fulfill my promise.

I am enclosing all the printed matter we have about the Vann House, including Exhibit A, which is a pamphlet we got out during our campaign to raise funds for the purchase of the property. Cherokees from the North Carolina reservation came to Dalton and took part in a school parade and we have promised to install Cherokee families as caretakers and hostesses at both the Vann House and New Echota when we are ready to open these Cherokee sites to tourists.

Residents of Whitfield County (Dalton) and Murray County (Chatsworth) raised \$5,000, bought the Vann House from an old doctor who was letting it fall down, and gave the property to this Commission. We spent \$30,000 restoring the exterior and now have another \$20,000 for restoring the interior, on which work is in progress. We engaged Dr. Henry Chandler Forman, of Boston, Md., a nationally known historical architect, to plan the restoration, and he insisted on duplicating the hand carving done by Indians in the Vann House. We plan later, as money is available, to rebuild the other structures that stood around the Vann House, and also to restore the garden and to landscape the grounds. However, we are handicapped by lack of information from Vann descendants.

We are working toward the restoration of all the government buildings at New Echota, but have no publications yet on that historic Cherokee site.

I will be glad to answer any further questions you may want to ask.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

C. E. GREGORY, Director.

SENECA-CAYUGA GREEN CORN CEREMONIAL FEAST*

The annual Green corn festival of the Seneca-Cayuga Indians of northeastern Oklahoma is held traditionally about the middle of August. The stomp grounds, located ten miles north of Grove and two miles southeast of Turkey Ford, on State Highway 10 are but a stone's throw from the Cowskin branch of the Lake of the Cherokees. The ceremony is open to the public but tribal rulers will not permit the religious rites of the festival to be photographed.

The Green Corn Feast still retains its religious significance, and is little changed from the days when the Senecas and Cayugas were "People of the Long House", a part of the mighty confederacy of the League of the Iroquois.

When Lewis Whitewing, the seventy-nine year-old tribal speaker, opens the ceremony praying beside a small fire burning in the middle of the "long house" where the greencorn rites are held, he

* A contributor to *The Chronicle* of articles on history in Ottawa County where the remnants of many Indian tribes made their last tribal home, Velma Nieberding of Miami, Oklahoma, here tells of the annual Green Corn Festival of the Seneca and Cayuga Indians.—Ed.

will begin with a prayer of thanksgiving to *Hawensiyu*, the literal translation of which "He is a Great Chief." Whitewing is thanking "The Great Spirit" for the gifts of the earth. From a buckskin pouch he takes the sacred Indian tobacco and sprinkling it on the fire for incense makes certain motions of his hands toward the sky. Sometimes he will fan the fire with a turkey wing fan. The Indians gathering in the tribal house are silent and attentive, watching the smoke of the fire as it carries the prayers heavenward.

Following the opening ceremony the traditional turtle-shell or Confession dance is held and then the babies are named. In the old days each clan of the tribe had a "keeper of names" but today all the babies are named by the venerable Whitewing. A baby is given an ancestral name derived from some feat performed by a member of his or her own clan. After naming, the baby is carried about the "long house" while the assembled Indians express in song best wishes for its future life.

Some of the dances of the Green Corn Festival are for rain, and it is not unusual for showers to fall sometime during the week of the Festival. In this ceremony the drummers acting as the sun drawing water call the dancers to the doorway of the "long house". Their answer is the song of the thunder before the rain. In the ancient Iroquoian ceremony, Heno "the Thunderer" is requested to continue his favors for the next year. The same favors are asked in turn of the sun, the earth, and the moon.

All of the ceremonies the first day are solemn and religious in nature. But the second day the Peach Seed Game, which is the principal amusement of the Festival, begins. While the players derive much pleasure from this game, it is by tradition played to please *Hawensiyu*, and is continued as long as *Hawensiyu* is considered to be amused by it.

In the Peach Seed Game, the clans of the north play against the clans of the south. Mrs. Mamie Long, a Seneca, living near Turkeyford, is by tribal tradition the keeper of the wooden bowl and the peach seeds with which the game is played. The bowl, medium in size and shallow, is over forty years old and was made by Jackson Jimerson, an Indian from Canada. It is carved from maple and has the soft, polished patina of age. Inside the bowl, on opposite sides, are painted a wolf and a deer, symbols of the north and south clans. The peach seeds, highly polished from long handling, are painted black on one side. They likewise are very old. In playing the game, the six polished seeds are put into the bowl and shaken vigorously, the object being to turn up seeds with black sides. Scorers keep the tally with 150 beans as the bowl passes from player to player.

The Seneca clans were originally Bear, Wolf, Turtle, Beaver, Deer, Snipe, Heron and Hawk. The Cayugas possessed an additional

clan, the Eel. Today only a few of the clans are represented when the tribesmen meet in the Green Corn Ceremony.

Last year the South clans won The Peach Seed game, wagering a string of blue and white wampum against a buckskin bag of sacred tobacco. This year, Little Heaven, of the South clan, is to start the game. The sacred Indian tobacco used in the ceremony is hand-raised by the Senecas, the seed having been handed down in the tribe from earliest times.

A committee of six women and six men prepare the food for the feast. They are supervised by Mrs. Ruby Charles, wife of the Chief. It is a traditional duty inherited from her mother, the late Amanda Turkey. Tribal ritual provides that the women who cook the green corn inherit the honor from generation to generation.

Green corn, the principal dish of the feast, is prepared separately from the other food. Those who eat the corn agree that it could be prepared the same way at home but "it would never taste the same." A huge iron kettle simmering over a fire of hickory wood, tended by the men, is used to cook the meat. Originally this was game meat of some sort, preferably deer. Today it is beef. After hours of slow cooking the meat is lifted to other pots to be kept warm and the green corn, cut from the cob, is put to cook in the meat broth.

The serving of the corn is an interesting ceremony. Tribal members and visitors invited to partake of the feast sit on benches around the "long house," and the food is passed by the men. Each guest brings his own dish. The Indians have previously brought the fruits of their fields and orchards to the long house and these offerings are stacked in one great heap. The hot, fragrant corn is ladled into one's dish, and big chunks of beef are handed out of a basket. "Fry bread" is passed, and large red or yellow tomatoes. Last year to finish off the feast, watermelons were cut and passed to the guests. Always there are pots of coffee steaming in nearby cook tents, and soft drinks are made available but are not served in the "long house."

A spirit of festivity and fun marks this occasion. Here, governed by rituals of the untraceable past, the Indian is pausing to give thanks for the gifts of the earth. It is an ending of the harvest with prayer and gratitude and a renewal of friendships. When the feast has been cleared away and the drummers gather in the middle of the long house; when the singers begin their chants and the "shell shakers" strap the terrapin shells filled with pebbles to their ankles, many white people prepare to join their Indian brothers in the social side of the "Green Corn Dance."

The Seneca-Cayuga tribes were the first Indian tribes of Oklahoma to organize under the Thomas-Rogers Oklahoma Indian Wel-

fare Act of 1936. With these Indians the idea of tribal responsibility has never died through all their wanderings. The Government of the Chiefs, the keeping of tribal festivities, and above all the spirit of Indian co-operation has been kept alive among them.

Visitors expecting buckskin and beads or feathered war dances will be disappointed. Compared to some Indian tribes the dress of the Seneca-Cayuga is plain. The men favor bluejeans and colorful "ribbon" shirts and neck scarves. Some of them carry turkey-wing fans while dancing. Leaders of the tribe paint their faces, three red stripes on each cheek. The women wear full-skirted, long sleeved, ruffled "squaw" dresses and bright aprons. Some wear silver and shell jewelry, and for dancing most of them wear moccasins.

The Seneca-Cayugas have other dances during the year including the blackberry and strawberry festivals. The Green Corn Dance, one of the most widely attended is probably the least understood, especially if the visitor misses the significance of the ancient rituals.

—Velma Niebarding

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF THE CONFEDERACY

The Oklahoma Historical Society has often received inquiries on the nature and extent of awards and decorations presented to personnel of the Confederate military service. Through the courtesy of Harry Weiss, Esq., Editor of *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Holton, Kansas, we are able to reprint this interesting article by a well known authority on Confederate philately, published here because of widespread interest in all details of service in the Confederate military establishment.

—George H. Shirk

THE CONFEDERATE ROLL OF HONOR

By THOMAS PARKS

It may be a surprise to most readers to learn that the Spartan-like Confederate States Army had a long forgotten award for military effort.

It neither offered "hardware" (medals), "fruit salad" (ribbons), or "hush marks" (service stripes), but inscribed names of members, chosen by election, on rosters of the honored. After each victory each company of the Confederate States Army was authorized to elect one soldier on the basis of his participation in the battle and inscribe his name on his Regiment's "Roll of Honor" in accordance with an Act signed by President Jefferson Davis.

The history of military bravery awards prior to that of the Confederate Army is a study in itself. The ancient Greeks, whose example the Confederates followed during the first three years of the war, had the typically Spartan attitude that conspicuous valor in action was to be expected without special reward, and anything less deserved punishment. On the other hand,

the Romans had a series of combat honors ranging from wreaths, swords and armor to victory parades for their heroes. The Romans had medals, too, but only for athletic contests. In various forms military rewards continued through the centuries until Napoleon started the modern vogue of medals suspended by ribbons. Perhaps the most challenging decoration of all time was that of Mincian troops in the Middle Ages who wore a rope and a nail with which they were to be hanged if they ran away! This originated the "fourragere" which certain American troops received in World Wars I and II from the French, the Belgians and the Dutch.

The American tradition started with a gold medal voted by Congress to General Washington on March 25, 1776 after the capture of Boston. Eighty-six such special gold and silver medals were voted between 1776 and 1802. On August 7, 1782 Washington originated the "Purple Heart," a piece of cloth sewed on the coat. It was awarded to three soldiers and forgotten until 1832 when it was revived as a decoration for military personnel wounded by enemy action. In 1783 the "hush mark," a cloth stripe on the left sleeve for three years service, was adopted by the Army and it alone, of all the early decorations, continues today. In the Mexican War a "Certificate of Merit" with \$2.00 per month extra pay was awarded to distinguished privates, but to no other ranks. For nearly a century after 1776 the standard American award for distinguished military service was the "Brevet" promotion, an advance of one commissioned grade for sergeants and up. Since this did not necessarily mean an increase in pay or command it was a somewhat confusing and dubious honor.

The Confederate leaders, many of whom had been officers in the Mexican War, including President Davis and General Lee, certainly knew of the above but perhaps rebelled then out because of the political hickering which attended the award of "brevets" during that war. That they considered, legitimated and finally adopted a system for recognition of conspicuous service seems to have been forced upon them by the "competition." Chronologically, developments were as follows:

On July 12, 1862, at the end of the first year of war, Northern enthusiasm was waning and the United States Congress authorized and provided funds for 2,000 "Congressional Medals of Honor" to be awarded for valor beyond the call of duty. Presentation of these started on March 25, 1868, with as much publicity as possible, retroactive to First Bull Run-Manassas and even a few before that.

On October 13, 1862 the Confederate Congress enacted a law reading in part: "That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to bestow medals, with proper devices, upon such officers of the armies of the Confederate States as shall be conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle, and also to confer a badge of distinction upon one private or non-commissioned officer of each company after every signal victory it shall have assisted to achieve."

However, the hard pressed South was too busy "gittle" on with the war" to divert time and effort to honors just then and provided no money for them.

Four months later, on Feb. 2, 1863, somebody in General Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland dreamed up a dream applicable to that Army only. This provided that valor was to be recognized only in certain stated quantities of so many of each rank in each brigade, the same to have their names on a "Roll of Honor" and to be separated from their units and formed in "Roll of Honor Companies" with special arms, special duties and a red ribbon badge to identify them. Needless to say the idea died. This red ribbon is not to be confused with the book "The Red Badge of Courage," one of the best known stories of the war.

After the battle of Chancellorsville, half a year later, on August 17, 1863, General Lee complained to the Secretary of War that in accordance with the General Order authorizing medals and badges under the Act of the Confederate Congress of October 13, 1862, the Army of Northern Virginia had recommended a number of well deserved awards and nothing had happened.

That put on the spot the venerable General Sam Cooper, who probably was behind the Spartan-like Confederate system. Inconspicuous in history, General Cooper was a strong influence. A New Yorker, he had been the Adjutant General of the United States Army, had resigned, and had been appointed the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Confederate States Army, where he was senior to General Lee and all others. Perhaps in his previous long service in the Federal Army he had been swayed on military honors. Anyway, on October 3, 1863, he issued General Order No. 181 replacing the previously legislated medals and badges with a "Roll of Honor" not too different from the Army of the Cumberland's idea except that it provided no badge of any kind. Moreover, he did nothing about it for nearly another year, by which time a great number of those honored had fallen in battle.

In part this order reads as follows: . . . "Difficulties in procuring the medals and badges of distinction have delayed their presentation by the President, as authorized by the Act of Congress approved October 13, 1862, to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Armies of the Confederate States conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle. To avoid postponing the grateful recognition of their valor until it can be made in the enduring form provided by that Act, it is ordered:

"I. That the names of all those who have been, or may hereafter be, reported worthy of this distinction, be engraved on a Roll of Honor, to be preserved in the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General for reference in all future time for those who have deserved well of their country, as having best displayed their courage and devotion on the field of battle.

"II. That the Roll of Honor, so far as now made up, be appolluted to this order and read at the head of every regiment in the service of the Confederate States at the first dress parade after its receipt, and be published in at least one newspaper in each State. . . .

"By order S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General."

The "Official Records" contain only two lists of "Roll of Honor" awards. One was dated August 10, 1864, memorializing a total of 724 officers and men. The other was dated December 16, 1864. After that the "Roll of Honor" seems to have been forgotten in the press of more urgent matters. Apparently less than 900 were named.

We are indebted to Van Dyk MacIrlide of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, for the key to this study. A book which he loaned me, "Four Years With Marie Robert," by Major Robert Stiles, contained the only reference I have seen to the "Roll of Honor" outside of the "Official Records," and he furnished the photo illustrated herewith.

Major Stiles criticized the "Roll of Honor" selection system bitterly. He called it a "lottery" in which the winners won nothing but the reading of their names to the regiments and publication in a newspaper, which so angered many units that they never made any such recommendations. I thought this was impossible but here are the rules as quoted in the "Official Records" and signed by the ubiquitous "General Sam" Cooper, in General Order No. 64, August 10, 1864:

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



Adjutant General's Office,
ROLL OF HONOR.

Col. John F. Lewis
Statesville
N. C.

Confederate States of America Roll of Honor, Post Office Cover

"11. The non-commissioned officers and privates are authorized, at the first dress parade after each victory the company should have assisted to achieve, to distinguish by a majority of their votes one private or non-commissioned officer most conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct in the battle. Should more than one soldier be hereafter selected by a company as equal in merit, the name to be announced upon the roll will be determined by lot. Commissioned officers distinguished for gallantry on the field are not to be selected by vote of the company, battalion or regiment to which they belong, but a statement of their official good conduct should be made by their immediate commander and forwarded through the regular channels to this office."

Under these rules the fourth crew of the Confederate Submarine "H. L. Hunley" could not and did not receive even this honor, yet theirs was an act of courage exceeded by none on either side during the war. After the submarine had drowned most of two crews and the entire third crew, the Confederate Navy abandoned it. Lieutenant George B. Dixon of the 21st Alabama Infantry Regiment, civilian Thomas Parks, its builder, and seven soldier (not sailor) volunteers ranking from captain to private, not only took it out on hazardous training cruises but with it sank the USS "Housatonic" on February 17, 1864, with the loss of their own lives.

In his book Major Sillies related how Union soldiers were spurred to greater effort by a variety of cloth badges as well as the Congressional Medal of Honor. The soldier who captured him in April, 1865 was assured he would receive a special badge for capturing an officer. Investigation reveals that there was a variety of these decorations awarded but not with official blessing from higher up.

Unfortunately the Major did not sufficiently identify the Confederate honor and I was unable to locate references to it until I saw the cover illustrated here. After that I found that fourteen volumes of the "Official Records" contained mentions of the Confederate Roll of Honor.

The objection to "buttery" was due to the fundamental error of authorizing companies to elect their heroes—naturally they had more than one—instead of having brave men selected and designated by their commanders, as was done for the officers. The "Official Records" list by name 3018 Confederate outfits which included perhaps some 5000 contemporary units, and Confederate forces took part in 2361 battles, large or small. If all companies had been able to nominate all their bravest men for the "Roll of Honor" it would have lost prestige through too many awards.

Few Confederates lived long enough to witness the "other side" having this difficulty. Up to January, 1917, a total of 2025 U. S. soldiers and sailors had received the Congressional Medal of Honor. On February 15, 1917, just before World War I, the Medal of Honor Board decided that 911 awards were unjustified and struck their names from the rolls. Of these, 864 men, the entire roster of a regiment, had received the Medal because they defended Washington, D. C. after their enlistments had expired and they could have gone home instead. At the time Congress was grateful but 50-odd years later the Board took a dim view of such service having been "beyond the call of duty."

The writer has seen a total of three "Roll of Honor" envelopes, in two typewritings, all postmarked Raleigh, N. C., and addressed to Army officers in North Carolina. The contents were gone but the single 10c stamp indicated they did not carry long lists. Just what they were used for, and whether others have survived, may never be known.

It is on record that Napoleon, when boarding the HMS "Hellerophon" for exile, remarked: "What! No marks of merit?" about the uniforms of his

honor guard of British soldiers, whom he mistook for recruits. When informed that they were veterans of campaigns against him but that it was then British custom not to decorate common soldiers, Napoleon replied: *Such is not the way to excite or cherish the military virtues!*"

Virginians George Washington and Robert E. Lee, and Minuteman Jefferson Davis, agreed with Napoleon, and Tennessean Alvin C. York and Texas Audie Murphy, the most publicized Congressional Medal of Honor winners of World Wars I and II, probably agreed, but New Yorker Sam Cooper, Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General, apparently did not agree, and thereby hangs this tale.

The only tangible remnants of the wartime Confederate award for bravery in action, appear to be three envelopes imprinted "Official Business, Adjutant General's Office, Hall of Honor." No badges exist.

TUSSY COMMUNITY NEAR WILDHORSE CREEK,
NAMED FOR HENRY B. TUSSY, PIONEER RANCHER IN
THE CHICKASAW NATION



M. B. Tussy
Cattle Brand

Tussy Community corners in three counties, Garvin, Stephens and Carter counties, and is located in an old spring-fed region near Wildhorse Creek on the Base Line, in Township three West, fifteen miles west of the Indian Meridian. The "Base Line Store" or "Tussy Store" and most of the residents of the community today are in Garvin County, as well as the old cemetery where Henry B. Tussy lies buried. He died at the age of eighty-three on July 9, 1938, having made his home just over the line in Stephens County since soon after his marriage to Miss Lili Colbert on July 4, 1886. Tussy was named for him when the first post office was established here in Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation on March 1, 1890, with Finch P. Seraggs as Post Master.¹

Henry B. Tussy, born July 8, 1855, at Louisville, Kentucky, was the son of Jacob and Mary Tussy, natives of Tennessee, who were of the sturdy stock that characterized many of the early settlers in Oklahoma. He was fourteen years old when he came with his parents to the Cherokee Nation where his father died in 1870. The next year Henry went to Sugden, present Jefferson County, where he was employed as a ranch-hand in the flourishing days along the old Chisholm Trail in this region. He and his young wife made their first home at Cold Springs two miles south of present Tussy Store. They had married at Velma, an early-day post office in the Indian Territory.² Lili Colbert Tussy was the daughter of James Colbert and the granddaughter of Governor Winchester Colbert of the Chickasaw Nation (elected three terms,

¹George H. Shirk, "First Post Offices within the Boundaries of Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXIV, No. 2 (Summer, 1943), p. 231.

²The first post office was established at Velma, in the Chickasaw Nation, on September 25, 1886, with John R. Frenley as Postmaster.—*Ibid.*, p. 232.

1858-60 and 1862-65). Mr. and Mrs. Tussy were the parents of nine children, all of whom survived him at the time of his death, together with twenty-four grandchildren. Mrs. Tussy is still living at her home in the Tussy Community.

Mr. Tussy at the age of eighty-three was one of the most prosperous farmers and livestock men, and was one of the largest land owners in Stephens County. He had bought up many hundreds of acres, and added to his wife's original Chickasaw allotment after 1902. He was identified with the Woodmen of the World and Masonic lodges, and was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

Back in the 1880's and 1890's, he long served as an employee on the Bill Addington Ranch which covered twelve square miles in the Tussy area. The fence around this ranch was the first wire fence in Stephens County, including a part of Gervin and Carter counties. When allotment of lands was made in the Chickasaw Nation before Statehood, this wire fence was cut and rolled up; settlers came from miles around and claimed part of the wire, and it served to fence many farms and pastures in this part of present Oklahoma.

When Henry Tussy came to the Chickasaw Nation in 1871, he was in company with George Gray who was still his neighbor at the time of his death in 1938, living two miles east of Tussy. Both men were pioneers of the "old school," for both had worked hard and enjoyed the fruits of their labor. They both had hunted together, and had many adventures. Gray liked to tell of many of their camping experiences back in early days when they were young men. One time on a deer hunt, they failed to get any deer but killed a panther. They were out of meat and were hungry so they invented "panther steak." And Gray added that it was the best steak he ever ate. Wild turkey was plentiful all through the country. But deer were a source of revenue, the hides bringing \$4.00 or 47c per pound on the market. Tussy and Gray hauled their cotton and deer hides to Gainesville and to Denison, Texas, taking five or six days to make the trip by wagon.

When Henry Tussy first located on the Addington Ranch, there was nothing but wild prairie where there are cities and towns in Stephens County today; there were only cow paths through the tall grass to indicate life of any kind. Gray said that there was not a house between where he later had his home near Tussy and Fort Sill. The first house was built by Jim Doak at Velma, out of logs cut and hauled from the bottom land on Wildhorse Creek. The only road through the whole region was the military trail from Fort Arbuckle to Fort Sill, along which Tussy and Gray watched the big army wagons travel, the first highway through Carter and Stephens Counties.

---Muriel H. Wright

1956 HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOUR OVER THE OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL

Retracing the Chisholm Trail was an intriguing experience for those who participated in the annual tour of the Oklahoma Historical Society on May 3, 4, and 5 of this year.

The general plans of the tour were outlined by a committee composed of R. O. Miller, Chairman, Col. George Shirk, H. B. Bass, Exall English, and Thomas J. Harrison. These members of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society were appointed for this duty by Gen. W. S. Key, Society President. The details of the tour were worked out by the committee chairman and members of the regular staff.

More than one hundred took the trip. The majority rode in two large busses, while several went by automobile. The caravan left Oklahoma City, with a police escort, at 8:50 a. m. on Thursday, May 3.

The first stop was at Tuttle, where the Silver City monument is located on the American Legion grounds. Old Silver City was located about 2½ miles north of the marker. The Administrative Secretary made a brief talk at this stop, pointing out the highlights in the history of Silver City.

At the eastern outskirts of Chickasha, city traffic police met the tourists and escorted them to the campus of the Oklahoma College for Women. Here a fine breakfast was served to the visitors in the college cafeteria. The O. C. W. chorus, under the direction of Miss Dorothy Tallis, furnished music for the breakfast program, which was presided over by General Key. Dr. Dan Proctor, President of the college, gave a brief welcome and introduced several people who had assisted in making arrangement for the breakfast, among whom was Dr. Anna B. Lewis, head of the college history department. A number of Chickasha citizens, including State Senator Walter Allen, were present at the breakfast. General Key expressed deep appreciation to the college and the citizens of Chickasha for their kindness in having arranged the breakfast.

Leaving Chickasha, the caravan progressed southward down Highway 81 to the Historical Society marker north of Rush Springs. This marker indicates the location of the Battle of Wichita Village. Miss Muriel Wright, Editor of the *Chronicles*, made a short talk giving pertinent facts concerning the Wichita Village battle. It was here that Dr. Ellsworth Collings, of the University of Oklahoma faculty, and one of the tourists, called attention to an old log house that was located about a quarter of a mile east of the marker. He said that this old house, which is down in a small valley, is the oldest house in that part of Oklahoma and that it was in use at the time the great herds were moving up the Chisholm Trail, less than two miles to the east.

When a short stop was made at Marlow, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of that city presented a large bouquet of flowers to the tourists and expressed pleasure at having the tourists call on them. Many of the visitors were heard to remark how much they appreciated this courtesy shown them at Marlow.

By this time the caravan was considerably behind schedule and needed to travel rapidly if it was to get to the Red River Bridge in time to meet the Texas delegation at 11:00 a. m. This meant that sixty miles must be traveled in less than an hour, which was impossible, even though there was a highway patrol escort to clear the way.

While rolling along between Waurika and Ryan, two large busses loaded with Texans, who had been retracing the Chisholm Trail in their state, passed the Oklahoma entourage. This was the group that the Oklahomans had planned to meet at the Red River.

It was decided by General Key, after consulting with other members of the Board, that it would be best for the Sooners to turn around and join forces with the Texans. So, the busses and automobiles of the Oklahoma group turned around in Ryan and headed back north, catching up with the Texans at Waurika, where they had stopped and were awaiting the arrival of the Oklahomans.

While the Texans waited at the side of the road on U. S. Highway 81, the Oklahoma group followed U. S. Highway 70 to the south edge of Waurika, where a new Oklahoma Historical Society marker was dedicated. This marker indicated the 98th meridian, which was the western boundary of old Indian Territory in that region. It had been erected under the auspices of the Delphian Club. Mrs. Harley Iry made the presentation to the Historical Society and General W. S. Key spoke in acceptance. He complimented the club women of Waurika for their splendid contribution in erecting the marker and expressed the hope that more groups in more communities would see to it that historical sites are properly marked.

Under the guidance of Judge J. G. Clift of Duncan, the combined Oklahoma and Texas groups traveled to Monument Hill two miles east of Addington, where they were shown views of where the old Chisholm Trail crossed the pasture lands. On getting ready to leave Monument Hill, one of the Oklahoma busses became stuck in the mud and a tractor had to be called from the highway to help pull it out.

Eventually, all the Oklahomans and Texans were enjoying a big barbecue in a grove at the foot of Monument Hill. This barbecue was part of the old Pickens County cowboy reunion, and the tourists from Texas and Oklahoma were guests of this group. Visitors from both Oklahoma and Texas were loud in their praise of Judge Clift.

and the Pickens County Cowpunchers Association for their genuine hospitality.

Following the barbecue at Addington, the Oklahomans proceeded to Duncan, while the majority of the Texans began their return journey home. Two or three cars of Texas travelers remained with the Oklahoma contingent. During the Duncan stop the travelers were guests of the Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company. They viewed some of the early day equipment used by that company.

Still considerably behind schedule, the caravan reached the Wichita Mountain Wild Life Refuge at about 4:30. With R. G. Miller acting as master of ceremonies, rangers and others gave information concerning the extent of the refuge and the methods used in carrying on their activities. A herd of long-horn steers, descendants of the type that traveled the Chisholm Trail in the 70's and 80's, had been rounded up by the rangers for the visitors to view. A herd of buffalo had also been driven into a pasture near the road where they might be seen by those on the tour.

It had been planned to go through the Fort Sill Museum, but inasmuch as the hour was late, this stop was cancelled and the tourists went to the hotel in Lawton, arriving there shortly after 6:00 p. m.

Under the direction of Exall English, resident of Lawton and member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, an excellent dinner was served and program presented. A local historical exhibit was on display so that all attending the banquet might view it. The banquet and program received the sincere plaudits of all in attendance.

The second day of the tour began with a run from Lawton to Anadarko. The first place visited in Anadarko was the grave of Black Beaver, famous Indian scout and leader. Miss Muriel Wright spoke to the group concerning the career of Black Beaver. Following her talk two descendants of Black Beaver were presented to the visitors.

Under the guidance of the Anadarko Junior Chamber of Commerce, the travelers went to Indian City which is located two miles south of Anadarko. At this place handicrafts, building structures and other Indian materials were viewed. A special Indian dance was put on by Indians living in the Anadarko neighborhood for the entertainment of the visitors.

Fort Reno was the next stop for the caravan. Here the group was met by representatives of the El Reno Chamber of Commerce, who served doughnuts and coffee to their guests. This proved to be a fortunate event, because the travelers did not get to eat lunch until around 3:00 that afternoon. At Fort Reno the old quarters

that had been occupied by General Philip Sheridan were viewed, along with the Quartermaster Building. From the former parade grounds of Fort Reno, the tourists went to the old fort cemetery, where many early day soldiers, who served at the fort, are buried. The graves of Germans and Italians, who died while American prisoners of war in camps located in Oklahoma during World War II, were also visited.

From Fort Reno the tourists proceeded to Geary, where a new Historical Society marker was dedicated. This marker is on the highway a short distance north of Geary. It tells of the location of the grave of Jesse Chisholm, for whom the Chisholm Trail was named. Miss Genevieve Seger, member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, along with other Geary citizens, had arranged for the dedicatory program. R. G. Miller and General Key were speakers on the program, which was highlighted by the recitation of the Twenty-third Psalm in Indian sign language by Mrs. R. L. McElhanev, a member of the Kiowa tribe.

The visit to Jesse Chisholm's grave was a solemn affair. The last resting place of the great pioneer and trail blazer is on a small knoll near Johnny Left Hand Spring, a few miles northeast of Geary. Following a short commemorative talk by General Key, a bouquet of flowers was placed on the grave by Miss Muriel Wright. After the ceremonies at the grave the group proceeded over country roads to Watonga, and from there went to the new state recreational lodge at Roman Nose Park. Here a late afternoon luncheon was served.

The next stop was at Kingfisher, and a large number of townspeople had gathered on the court house lawn to greet the visitors. Judge George Bowman, member of the Board of Directors of the Society, was in charge of the local program. After words of welcome by Judge Bowman, General Key responded by thanking the Kingfisher people for their generous hospitality. The Kingfisher high school band played several numbers and a quartet sang. State Senator Roy Boecher was a member of the quartet.

Moving northward, the caravan stopped at Dover, where another Oklahoma Historical Society marker had recently been erected. This marker designated the exact spot where the Chisholm Trail passed through that locality and also designated the location of the old Red Fork Ranch. Robert Barr, on behalf of Dover citizens, presented the marker to the Society and General Key accepted. The Administrative Secretary also spoke briefly. A number of pioneer men and women of the Dover community were present for the ceremonies.

It was at the history-laden town of Hennessey that the caravan made one of its most interesting stops. Here the grave of Roy

Cashion, first man from Oklahoma to lose his life in the Spanish-American War, was viewed and the location of the Pat Hennessy massacre was also visited. Coffee and doughnuts were served in the community building by the Hennessy Lions Club. A parade of local groups preceded the Society caravan into town.

The second night stop was made at Enid. Henry B. Bass, member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, was in charge of the evening's program, which was attended by the visiting tourists and a large number of Enid residents. Dr. E. C. McReynolds, of the history faculty of the University of Oklahoma, was the speaker of the occasion. During the festivities, General and Mrs. Key were presented with a large wedding anniversary cake, which came as a great and pleasant surprise to the couple.

The third and final day of the tour began with a visit to the Great Salt Plains near Cherokee. This was a fifty-mile drive from Enid. The Plains are considered among the scenic wonders of Oklahoma, and were long a landmark for Indians and early day travelers.

The tour backtracked to the vicinity of the Chisholm Trail at Pond Creek, observing the evidences of the old trail where it crossed the highway west of that city. At the south edge of Jefferson, the site of the old Sewell Ranch was visited and also the graves of two cowboys who were killed by the Indians while riding the Chisholm Trail. The Administrative Secretary spoke briefly at the monuments.

Medford, the county seat of Grant County, was the last stop in Oklahoma for the tour. Upon reaching the outskirts of Medford, the visitors were greeted by blowing whistles of old thrashing machine engines. The main street of Medford had been roped off and a royal welcome was given to the tourists. The high school band played and a girls' Quartet sang several numbers. Officials of the Medford Chamber of Commerce made the official welcome, which was responded to by General Key and Chairman R. G. Miller. Refreshments were served to the entire group, all of whom expressed deep appreciation for the fine reception that had been given them by the citizens of Medford.

It was only a few minutes' run from Medford until the Oklahoma delegation crossed the Kansas line, where they were met by a parade of ancient cars, horseback riders, and other Caldwell representatives. These groups escorted the Oklahomans to a pasture at the south edge of Caldwell, where the ruts of the old Chisholm Trail could be plainly seen. Here a barbecue was served to the tourists and hundreds of Kansans who had gathered at Caldwell to celebrate the first annual Border Queen City festival. After the

barbecue, the Oklahoma busses and cars proceeded to downtown Caldwell where the tourists visited the historical exhibits that had been prepared by the people of Caldwell, who reside in the town that was long the northern terminus of the Chisholm Trail.

Nyle H. Miller, Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society was on hand to officially represent the State of Kansas, while Lt. Governor Pink Williams represented the State of Oklahoma and General Key the Oklahoma Historical Society. Lt. Governor Williams had been along for the retracing of the Trail in its entirety.

At 2:30 p. m. the Oklahoma caravan left Caldwell and arrived at the Historical Society Building in Oklahoma City shortly before 6:00.

—Elmer L. Fraker