

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

DEDICATION OF ROBERT LEE WILLIAMS BUST

The bust of Robert Lee Williams, the work in bronze by sculptor J. R. Taylor, Norman, Oklahoma, was presented to the Robert Lee Williams Public Library at Durant on Sunday, 1 June 1958.

By circumstance, individuals now holding three of the respective offices once occupied by Judge Williams were present and participated in the ceremony. The principal speaker was Honorable Eugene Rice, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, a position once held by Judge Williams. The Honorable Earl Welch, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, likewise a position once held by Judge Williams, and George E. Shirk, President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, a chair once occupied by Judge Williams, were also present as distinguished guests.

Mrs. Floy Perkinson Gates, member of the Library Board, presided at the ceremony. Invocation was by Rev. W. E. Bowers. Dr. E. E. Dale and Dr. James D. Morrison, authors of *Pioneer Judge* were introduced and their remarks telling of the experiences in writing the book were well received. Following the ceremonies, they both were in much demand for the autographing of copies. Following the principal address by Judge Rice, the bust was presented to the Library by the Honorable Harry W. Gibson, Jr., Trustee of the Williams Estate. The unveiling was by Mrs. Lester O'Riley, Librarian, and the gift was accepted by Dr. James D. Morrison.

An excellent likeness, the bust should bring to J. R. Taylor much satisfaction in having made this contribution to the cultural life of the state and the community.

ANNUAL HISTORICAL TOUR

For the 1958 Oklahoma Historical Society tour, the southwestern section of the State was selected as the region to be visited. All preliminary plans and arrangements were made by a committee headed by Mr. R. G. Miller. Other members of the committee were Col. George H. Shirk, Judge J. G. Clift, Mr. Henry Bass, and Dr. E. E. Dale.

From the time the three large buses, conveying the tourists, left the Historical Society Building on the morning

of May 1st, until they returned to the same place on the evening of May 3rd, there was a veritable college of Oklahoma history on wheels.

The first stop was made north of Rush Springs, at the marker indicating the location of the Battle of Wichita Village. The lecture at this point was made by Col. Shirk, newly elected president of the Society. The next stop was made where Captain Marcy's expedition crossed the point where U. S. Highway 81 is located. Judge J. G. Clift of Duncan, member of the Society's Board of Directors, pointed out the new marker that had been erected at this place and spoke briefly concerning the Marcy expedition.

Upon arrival at Ryan, the buses were met by Mr. William Dale, Chief Curator of the Historical Society, with the information that recent rains had made it inadvisable for the caravan to attempt reaching the site of old San Bernardo, early day French settlement, located in the Red River bottoms about twenty-five miles southeast of Ryan, near Petersburg in Southeastern Jefferson County.

Miss Muriel H. Wright, Editor of *The Chronicles* had previously made arrangements with Mr. Joe Benton of Nocona, Texas, for an exhibit to be shown on the Tour, from his fine collection of relics and artifacts that have been found on the San Bernardo site. Mr. Dale had gone to Nocona the day before the tour for Mr. Benton's San Bernardo materials, and had set up the interesting display in the Ryan High School Auditorium. This exhibit was viewed by the tourists and also by the high school students of Ryan with Mr. Dale answering questions concerning the items on display. Coffee and doughnuts were served to the travelers by the citizens of Ryan.

On the way to Grandfield, Tillman County, a brief roadside stop was made that the location of the old Warren trading post (1842) might be pointed out. Upon arrival at Grandfield, the group had luncheon with the Kiwanis Club of that city. A special program of local history was presented. The main theme was based on Big Pasture history. Grandfield is located in what was formerly known as the Big Pasture which was opened to settlement early in 1907. Miss Virginia Wachurst made a most interesting talk on the early history of that section. She is a former resident of Grandfield, now teaching school in Wichita Falls, Texas.

When the tourists arrived in Blair, they had the rare opportunity of seeing the Mary Winters' collection of relics and artifacts that had been found in nearby Devil's Canyon, Kiowa County. The display was set up in the Blair American



FIG. 42. P. 1. Day at Brown, 1922.

At the Old Corral Port Muench, standing left to right: H. G. Miller, Harry Hays, Judge John G. Clift, Members, and Colonel George H. Shirk, President of the Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society. Arthur H. Lawrence of Comanche County Historical Society at right.

Legion Hall. Another intended historic site was passed up, when it was found the roads were too wet and slippery for the trip out to Navajo Mountain, in Greer County.

Late in the afternoon the caravan arrived at Quartz Mountain Lodge on Lake Altus, or Lake Lugert as it is frequently referred to by the old-timers of that section. Facilities of the Lodge were taxed to the limit to care for the touring group of Oklahoma history lovers. Nevertheless, arrangements for housing and eating were exceptionally good and all details were handled in a most expeditious manner. The group spent both the nights of May 1st and May 2nd at the Lodge.

The evening's dinner program for May 1st was in charge of citizens from Altus. The entertainment was featured by a humorous musical skit staged by Altus High School students. It was a takeoff based on operatic selections.

Friday morning found the tourists headed for Devil's Canyon, and a foot trip through that scenic and historic section of the Wichita Mountains. The group was taken to the north end of the Canyon by buses, where the majority disembarked and started through the more than two miles of rough going. Those who did not care to make the Canyon trip remained on the buses and traveled to the south end of the Canyon where they met the foot party when it emerged from the gorge. The guide through the Canyon was teen-age Glen Winters, grandson of Mary Winters who owns the collection exhibited in Blair, and who was an early-day resident in Devil's Canyon. Besides seeing the rugged scenery, those making the trip through the Canyon walked over the site of the large Wichita Indian Village that was visited by the famous U. S. Dragoon Expedition commanded by Col. Henry Dodge, in July of 1834. Upon completing the trip through the Canyon, the tourists boarded the buses that were awaiting them at the south end, and returned to Quartz Mountain Lodge for luncheon.

The afternoon trip included stops at Granite to view the State's largest quarries, a visit to Chief Lone Wolf's grave, a stop south of Hobart to view the largest pecan tree in Oklahoma, and a visit to the site of old Camp Radzimirski, near Mountain Park in Kiowa County.

The Friday night dinner meeting program was in charge of committees from Mangum, Hobart, and Granite. Several vocal musical numbers were presented by the Hobart group, and high school students from Mangum gave a demonstration of shelter belt values in soil conservation. Piano numbers were also on the Mangum program. Mr. J. R. Willis, owner of the Granite Quarries, gave several officers of the Historical

Society granite desk markers. He also gave Mr. R. G. Miller, chairman of the tour committee, a granite plaque on which the likeness of Mr. Miller was engraved. Mr. O. H. Ford announced that every business man in Granite had joined the Oklahoma Historical Society. Officials of the Society said this was the first time anything like this had ever happened.

The last day of the Tour was one replete with visiting outstanding historic spots and viewing the great military establishment at Ft. Sill. Upon arrival at Ft. Sill, shortly after 9:00 a. m., the tourists were welcomed, in a brief talk by General DeShazo, Commandant of Ft. Sill. Under the guidance of Mr. Gillette Griswold, Curator of the Ft. Sill museum, the tourists viewed many historic spots at Ft. Sill, and saw the exhibits of the Raymond S. McClain Museum. Luncheon was served in the Ft. Sill dining room, after which the visitors were shown some of the most modern military weapons. Expertly drilled teams demonstrated the procedure in launching the Honest John and Corporal missiles.

In order to keep on schedule, no stops were made at Geronimo's grave north of Ft. Sill and at the old Mautame Mission east of Anadarko. When the tourists reached Verden, the site of Camp Napoleon, Dr. Anna Lewis, formerly head of the History Department at the Oklahoma College for Women, made a brief talk concerning the historic conference that was held at this site in 1865, and pointed out the monument that had been erected commemorating the event.

The last stop before heading for the Historical Society Building and trail's end for the Tour, was at Minco where the tourists visited at the site of the old El Mota Bond School. A group of Minco citizens was on hand to extend greetings and serve light refreshments.

The Tour was made unusually interesting with a number of eminent historians and writers in the group. Among these were Dr. E. E. Dale, Dr. Angie Debow, Dr. Anna K. Lewis, Dr. Frank Balyeat, Mr. Harold Keith, and Mary Agnes Thompson.

E. L. F.

SOME OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE HISTORY

The following memories of life in the old days in the Panhandle country have been received by the Editorial Department, from Mr. Solon Porter.

PANHANDLE DAYS

There have lived on these plains, cattle-ranchers whose interests were so vast they scarcely knew the border line of their domain:

while there have been lesser "lighter" squatting along the various streams, and usually holding comparatively small herds of commission cattle. They seem to have attempted growing little, except canoe-bay with which to carry their stock through bad storms. Their mode of travel was slow and the trail was long; yet perhaps no happier people ever lived; when all the while they were dressing and planning a trip to a little shady nook at the end of the trail.

There would be new-found friends and pretty girls all waiting to flush a legitimate dance; and this was to be an occasion long looked forward to. Soon now he or she had chosen their "dream baby" and with the first squeal of the fiddle and the rhythmic yell of some little gourdhead, the work was on.

Naturally the girls were scarce and prized accordingly. Only a few girls could be rounded up within a radius of a hundred miles. The girls were so rare in those days that all bars were thrown down as to qualifications: From twelve to eighty years of age, they put on the old bonnet with the ribbon on it, grabbed the skillet and a chunk of bacon, loaded the covered wagon, and went to the dance

Reliable men who for more than eighty years have lived on the plains, say that they themselves have attended dances as much as ninety miles from their headquarters and thought little of the distance. Naturally, these cattle ranch powwows were not broken off at one or two o'clock in the morning. Rather, they gained momentum through the night, only to be augmented with a huge barbecue the next day. And "the goose continued to hang high" until the third or fourth day for the farewell dance. This was the climax! The day of days!

Emotions were unbridled. There had been new found friends. The gals and fellows had mingled half a week. A little love here and there had hung fire, nor could heaven nor earth have headed it off—"and my dreams will be only of you baby till we meet right here again in September" was the tenor good-bye. Nor were the shimmering plains ever too wide, nor the pitiless desert sun ever too hot for those folks to rout out and go. But now, "jst" in case, did they have anything for snake bites at the big dances? Plenty of it, and drunks? and trouble? Seldom. But if so, the Judge, jury, and janitor were right on the button, and the verdict was executed in a very positive manner.

Surely, those rough and ready plainemen were there for a good time, also their manhood was appealed to, and they seemed proud to get to show that they were gentlemen worthy of trust and respect by complying with a formal request that they turn all their whiskey over to the landlady. Then according to their own sense of proper balance the spinke-and-span auxiliary gals would dish out little sips of toddy and eggnog, and of course, goodwill mounted high.

And about the music? Well it seems plain that when the Creator made people, He, for some reason of His own just grow a fiddler here and there. One among many, that is. This was keen, too, as the cow-hand could straddle a cayuse and knock on the door of a fiddler and "git" back the same day. The fiddler would have a fiddle too; and listen, it was usually an old Strad, rare and woolly—and "no, it ain't fur sale"—and you could hang your wraps on that. Of course any fiddle is "jst" another fiddle, and "it's a rousten' little rounder without an squeal." Then there was the hand organ. It was homely and sweet, and strangely enough, the Plains powwow

would have its so-called Dago who with his hand-organ and little monkey was sure to drop in on time. And according to all accounts the little monkey knew his onions, never failing to spit on his hands when he started passing his little dirty hat around. This always brought an uproar with a few pennies interspersed, with a nickle here and there.

So there was melody, romance, and real "ketchen" happiness at the old range dance. Today, except recreated in cherished memory, the old-time powwow is no more. Gone with the prairie winds are the folks who could put on a hot time with "nothin'" to do it with but shade, water, and grass, and of course, a fiddle and a monkey. This gave something to look forward to—a place to go, hunger for human association, and the thrill of meeting the object of those dreams meant a lot of livin'. Hence the rugged spirit of the old Southwest shall be recaptured and staged for a thousand years to come. That's why we sing, "Gimme a home where the buffaloes roam, I'm sick of man-made laws and fences." That's why we eat back and recall a people, their life and happiness and a story sifted from the ashes of time.

—Selon Fortar

ESTABLISHMENT OF BOGGY DEPOT STATE PARK

The following review records the years of work that brought about the recent establishment of Boggy Depot State Park, in Atoka County, in which Mr. J. Brookes Wright of McAlester was the prime mover in the projects and the donor of the tract of land to the State of Oklahoma. This interesting record of contemporary history was received by the Editorial Department from Mr. Wright, and gives details that led up to the final establishment of the Park at the time of Centennial Celebration of the Butterfield Overland Mail at Old Boggy Depot last fall, reviewed in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXXV, No. 4 (Winter, 1957-58), pp. 474-77, in which mention was made of Mr. Wright's gift of land for the park, and also of the work on the Centennial program "contributed by interested citizens locally and of Atoka, led by Mr. Russell Telle" and others. Mr. Wright who had full charge of this Centennial program was born at Old Boggy Depot eighty-one years ago, the last living son of the Reverend Allen and Mrs. Wright. He has given time and interested effort to the preservation of other historic spots in Southeastern Oklahoma, having written a number of reminiscences of this region where he has lived all his life, and is now retired after many years as Chief Clerk of the U. S. Indian Office at McAlester.

Boggy Depot State Park

This is a synopsis of the work involved in establishing the Memorial Park at Old Boggy Depot from the origin of the idea to the formal presentation of the land deed to the State of Oklahoma which took place at the time of the celebration of the centennial

of the founding of the Butterfield Mail and Stage Coach Line and the semi-centennial of Oklahoma Statehood held at Old Boggy Depot, Atoka County, Oklahoma, on September 13, 1957.

In the fall and winter of 1952-53 I conceived the idea of asking the State of Oklahoma to establish a memorial park at Old Boggy Depot in Atoka County with primary purpose of including the old cemetery where so many prominent Oklahoma pioneers lie buried as well as some Confederate soldiers.

My old acquaintance and friend, Senator Keith Cartwright, was at that time Chairman of the Senate Committee of the 24th legislature on parks. I asked his support of the project and he granted my request. He was instrumental in getting a bill passed and an appropriation made for the park.

I was instrumental in getting Mrs. Anna Wright Ludlow to agree to donate the land, which she owned, for the park.

At that time it seemed that only a few people besides Mr. C. C. Stephens, President of the Atoka State Bank, were interested in the project. Up to that time Atoka County was not shown as having any point of interest within its bounds. We were able to interest Senator Henry Cooper and Representative Floyd Mason of Atoka County in the project and they assisted Senator Cartwright of Bryan County in passing the Bill and getting an appropriation. The matter depended then on the action of the State Planning and Resources Board for execution. I contacted Mr. Ernest E. Allen, Director of Division of Parks, and Mr. Jack V. Boyd, Executive Director of the Planning and Resources Board. Mr. Boyd introduced me to the full board which was in session at that time and I presented the matter to them.

Governor Johnston Murray was not sympathetic with the project and threatened to veto the Bill unless the Atoka County delegation agreed to cut the appropriation from \$5,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Mr. Mason told me that rather than see the Bill killed they accepted the cut with the idea that they might come back later and get a larger appropriation. Then Governor Murray deferred the appropriation until July 1, 1954.

The Planning and Resources Board no doubt thought there was no hurry in getting the deed to the land and so put it off for about 4 months, even though I tried to impress upon them the uncertainty of Mrs. Ludlow's life due to her age.

When the Board got ready to receive the deed and before we got in readiness to have it executed Mrs. Ludlow became a hospital patient and was never able to execute the deed. She lingered along for 15 months and then passed away and her estate was handled through the Probate Court.

Due to the slowness of the Executor and his attorney—mostly the attorney—the estate was not settled for 2 years. In the meantime the State, or Planning and Resources Board, cancelled the appropriation and we were left with a park site but without funds.

One thing I did was to place Atoka on the historical map. Mr. Allen, Executive Director of Parks, promised me they would designate the park site on the map and this was done a year or two before anything further was done on the park. Prior to this, Atoka County was not credited with a historical spot.

All during the interim I kept busy working for the carrying out of the project. Mr. Russell Telle, my cousin, assisted me greatly by his ability as a stenographer. He was a lawyer and district court reporter. He rendered good service in typing for I had to do all my correspondence in longhand.

Senator Bob A. Trent and Representative Otto Strickland, representing Atoka County in the 28th Oklahoma Legislature, introduced and had passed a Bill carrying an appropriation of \$20,000.00 for the Memorial Park at Old Boggy Depot.

So when the Ludlow estate was settled I bought, with the consent of my sisters, Mrs. Mary W. Wallace and Mrs. Clara E. Richards, the land of our sister Mrs. Anna W. Ludlow, deceased, and was then in position to give the State the land for the park.

The desiding of the land to the State for the park finally culminated at the Centennial celebration of the Butterfield Mail and Stage Coach Line and the Semi-centennial celebration of Oklahoma Statehood held at Old Boggy Depot on September 13, 1957.

I had previously donated a small tract of land at Old Boggy, containing the site of the Oklahoma Lodge No. 4, A. F. and A. M., now of Atoka, where the first lodge was activated in Oklahoma after the Civil War.

Russell Telle became interested in the Butterfield Celebration and consequently became interested in the Old Boggy Depot and Atoka celebrations. He was especially helpful in arousing the interest of the Atoka people in the celebrations and I gave him public recognition for the good work he did and this compliment he acknowledged in a letter to me.

Mr. J. O. Sutherland, representing the Atoka Masonic Lodge was an active and interested aid in the Old Boggy celebration. Mr. Jene Mungle of Atoka, an active and enterprising young man, was an enthusiastic booster for the celebrations. He and his father barbecued the beef which was provided and served at Old Boggy. There were others who contributed time and money for the celebrations.

I began in the winter of 1957 to make Old Boggy presentable for the Semi-centennial and the Butterfield Centennial celebrations. Mr. Ernest Fahray, a former President of the Old Boggy Depot Cemetery Association, and I began working on the cemetery and by the time spring came we had it in good condition. Then the rains came and it was early summer before we got to work anymore. In the meantime the bushes, the weeds and the grass grew prodigiously in the cemetery and on the Old Boggy townsite until they appeared a wilderness. Then the real job began.

During the year 1957, from winter until the 13th of September, I made a trip every 2 weeks to Atoka at my own expense to try and keep up the interest of the people in Atoka County in the celebration and to supervise the work.

The Atoka people were interested in their own 4th of July celebration and we waited until after that, hoping to get some help in preparing the grounds at Old Boggy. I had been promised some help from the Atoka people. Getting very little encouragement and as time for the celebrations was drawing near I became desperate and so went to see Warden McLeod of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and solicited his help by allowing us to use the trustees at the

Stringtown prison to clear up the grounds. Mr. McLeod was sympathetic but said he was forbidden to permit prisoners to work on cemeteries. He said if I would get Governor Gary or the Chairman of the State Board of Affairs to authorize him that he would furnish the men. I then wrote Governor Gary what the Warden had said and I explained to him that the project was in connection with the semi-centennial celebration. Governor Gary has seemed to be interested in the Memorial Park project at Old Boggy. He must have authorized the Warden to furnish the men for the help was not long in coming and a few of the citizens of Atoka and the Boggy Depot community furnished transportation for the prisoners from Stringtown to Old Boggy.

Mr. J. G. Sutherland, representing the Masons, of Atoka and Mr. Jake Evans of New Boggy worked along with the trustees and supervised the work.

The prisoners, who were trustees, did a wonderful work and I have never seen the Old Boggy Cemetery and the old townsite in so fine condition as it was on the 13th of September, 1957.

Through the efforts of Russell Telle we were able to master the interests of the civic-minded clubs and organizations of Atoka to congregate and organize into committees to promote the celebrations and carry on the work. They became enthused and were in the act of taking charge of the celebration at Old Boggy as well as the one at Atoka. Mr. C. C. Stephens, the Atoka banker, who knew of my work from the beginning, suggested that they permit me to take charge of the celebration at Old Boggy and supervise it with their help. That was done.

With the cooperation of the Atoka people, local people and others, I have never seen such a fine gathering at Old Boggy Depot as we had on that day, the 13th of September, 1957. There was a large assemblage and tables loaded with food. Several prominent people made speeches.

The object of this synopsis is to record the work done on the park project, the disappointments encountered, and the final successful culmination by the combined celebrations of the Butterfield Centennial and the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial at Old Boggy at which time the park site was deeded to the State.

—J. B. Wright

A HISTORICAL NOTE ON PRAIRIE CITY, INDIAN TERRITORY

The *Oklahoma and Indian Territory Churchman* for September, 1900, gave an account of St. John's Mission, Episcopal Church, at Prairie City, Indian Territory, written by the Reverend C. M. Campbell who was in charge of this Mission in 1885-87. Prairie City was first established as a post office on February 26, 1872, with Isaac W. Smith as postmaster, the location of the village at that time on the west side of the Neosho or Grand River being the present site of Ogeechee in Ottawa County. In 1875, the Prairie City post office was moved to a new location on the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad three miles east, on the east side of the Neosho, and renamed

Grand River. In 1894, Grand River post office became Wyandotte post office which continues to this day in Oklahoma.¹ The Reverend Campbell's account of St. John's Mission is as follows, the transcript of this article having been received from the Reverend Sam L. Botkin, Chaplain of Casady School, Oklahoma City:²

—Editor

ST. JOHN'S MISSION, PRAIRIE CITY, I. T.

By C. M. Campbell

The end of the month of August found me at Viola, and on the 6th of September, 1855, a Sunday School was organized at Prairie City, Indian Territory a little settlement on the San Francisco and St. Louis R. R. in the Cherokee Nation, about 26 miles to the east.

A blacksmith's shop, two stores and perhaps a half dozen dwellings made up the village proper, one of the best of which kindly gave us shelter, for my wife and I were left on the prairie literally without a roof to cover our heads, as there was no depot at Prairie City, only a platform beside the track, which swept away across the prairie and disappeared in the distance. The school opened with eleven scholars which number soon increased to forty or fifty and for the most part was well attended. Though slow themselves to receive the "Glad Tidings," these people were always ready to have their children learn whatever we were willing to teach. This truly was the hope of the Mission.

Though still a lay reader and a Candidate for Orders in the Diocese of West Virginia, I conducted the first service of the Church in that section of the Territory on Sunday morning, Sept. 20, 1855, in the home of Mr. Percy Walker,³ with a congregation numbering upwards of fifty souls; and it was really surprising with what readiness these people used the Prayer Book for the first time, most of them never having seen or heard of it before.

I opened a day school on the 8th of September, in a little log cabin some distance away. It had been thought that the Nation would build a school house and appoint a teacher; but being slow to act, the people themselves took the matter in hand and by October

¹ George H. Shirk, "First Post Offices within the boundaries of Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXVI, No. 2 (Summer, 1948).

² A copy of *The Episcopal Church in Oklahoma* by Sam L. Botkin, recently published (1958) in Oklahoma City has been received by the Editorial Department. This book gives a detailed history of the Episcopal Church and its missions in Indian Territory and Oklahoma to the present.

³ Percy Ladd Walker was of Wyandot Indian descent, born at Wyandotte, Kansas, in 1849, the son of Matthew H. Walker who had moved with his tribe from Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he was a member of the Masonic Lodge at an early date. Matthew Walker was a brother of William Walker, Chief of the Wyandot tribe, who was the first governor of Kansas Territory. Percy Walker, a nephew of Gov. Wm. Walker, came to Prairie City in January, 1859, where he established his home in 1875 after his marriage to Mary M. Audraile of Cherokee descent. He had graduated from Spaulding Commercial College at Kansas City in 1871. He served several terms as member of the Cherokee National Council, in which the full blood Cherokees called him "Atla-Taw-ke" meaning "Walk About." The post office called *Narcissa*, in the Cherokee Nation, was named for his daughter, *Narcissa Walker*.—Notes by Percy L. Walker written in 1937. "Indian and Pioneer History," Vol. XI, pp. 139-57, in *Indian Archives*, Oklahoma Historical Society.—Ed.

they had put up a comfortable building and the school was then moved to nearer and better quarters. This room was always used for Sunday School and Church services, which were regularly maintained each Sunday.

On the 7th of October a Ladies Sewing Society was organized, which afterward did much faithful work, both in helping the destitute and unfortunate in the neighborhood and in fitting up the school-house for Church and Sunday School purposes. The efforts of this Society resulted in securing \$80 for an organ and \$12 for a stove, besides a lectern and a number of other minor furnishings and supplies. And a distant friend gave \$6 for lamps, which were speedily placed in position.

Our hearts were rejoiced by a visit from Bishop Pierce, recently gone to his rest, who came to us Feb. 12, 1855. He remained until the 17th, preaching every night, except the first, and twice on Sunday the 14th. In the morning he administered the Holy Communion, the first my wife and I were privileged to receive since leaving the East. On the 15th he baptized five, and on the 16th two children. We were much strengthened and comforted by his eloquent words, his sound advice and his godly counsels, and were very loath to see him depart. This was his first visit to Prairie City, and proved to be his last, during my connection with St. John's Mission.

In April with my wife I returned to West Virginia; and on the 17th of May was ordained Deacon in St. John's Church, Charleston, by Bishop Peterkin. After a visit to Mrs. Campbell's old home in Virginia, we started west again and reached Prairie City on June 10th, refreshed and encouraged by our visit home.

During the summer and fall of 1855 the services and Sunday School were largely attended; and on August 29th I baptized two little children and one adult. Two large lots were secured in Mr. Percy Walker's name for the Church and school purposes; and later I forced them in, but we were unable to erect any buildings. I never learned what became of these lots, but presume they were held by Mr. Walker, as they had not been formally turned over to the Mission by the Nation.⁴ From November 17th to 22 I visited Muskogee, preaching once in the Methodist and three times in the Presbyterian church; and in the afternoon of the 20th conducted a funeral in the latter. An earnest, faithful man at Muskogee could have accomplished much good at this time, under the blessing of God. But it was too far removed from St. John's Mission to be reached from there with any degree of regularity, though it was always my desire to return and establish a mission, and I should have done so if the necessary expense could have been provided for. But having at first come to the Territory entirely at my own charges, and being possessed of very little means, it was necessary to confine our labors to the one field, though the General Board had by this time given what assistance they could, which afforded, however, but a partial support.

Indeed, it was for this reason the work was finally abandoned by me. For, much as I regretted it, when my own private funds

⁴No deeds to town lots nor land on Indian owned properties were made out until allotment of lands in severalty by the different Indian tribes in Oklahoma and Indian territories, just before Oklahoma became a State in 1907. The Wyandot Nation owned its reserved lands in common until the time of allotment. The lots allowed for church and school purposes in Mr. Walker's name were in the nature of a permit from the Nation to one of its Indian citizens.—Ed.

were exhausted, and the Board could not longer keep up its appropriation (it will be remembered that year all missionary stipends were reduced) it became necessary to return to the East, and accordingly on the 7th of February, 1837, after bidding a sad farewell to our hosts of friends in whose lives and welfare we had become deeply interested and praying God's blessing upon them, we started back for West Virginia, in which diocese I have since been engaged in missionary work.

On January 21, 1837, I married a full blood Delaware Indian (man) and a white girl; on the 30th baptized an adult; on the 31st an infant; and on the morning of Feb. 5th preached my last sermon at St. John's Mission, Prairie City and in the afternoon baptized an infant. Several were ready for Confirmation by this time, could the presence of a Bishop have been secured.

This ended a service of seventeen months in the Indian Territory, chiefly spent in sowing seed, which I trust and pray has yielded some fruit somewhere, in the years that have followed.

SILVER CITY ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

Notes on the history of Silver City, written some years ago by J. C. Malcom who came to this old trading post on the Chisholm Trail in 1889, are printed in this number of *The Chronicles*, as an added record on the history of Silver City and Mineo that was of special interest to those who were with the Historical Society's Annual Tour this spring. Mr. Malcom who is one of the few early pioneers living in the Mineo region also made a penciled map of Silver City as it was in 1889, which has been reproduced in India ink and given here with its history. His account of the frequent moves of his parents from place to place and his experiences as a boy is a good description of many families from neighboring states that came to the Indian Territory in the 1880's and rented land for farming from the Indian citizens in the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations.

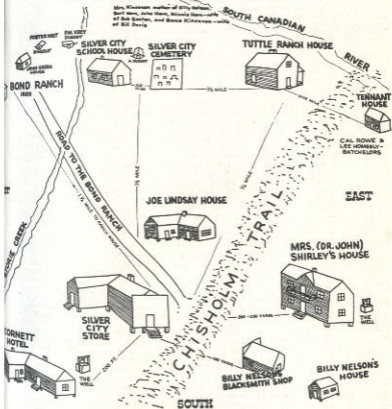
Notes on Silver City by J. C. Malcom

I am the son of James F. and Ellen M. Malcom and was born Feb. 22, 1876 in Preston Bend on the Red River near Polkboro, Texas. At the age of two or three years I moved with my folks to the Col. M. Reeves place near the Georgetown school house, and at the age of seven years I moved with my father and mother and two brothers and one sister to the State of Arkansas, locating eleven miles east of Ozark on the Mulberry Mountain, going to school there in a log school house my father built. Our postoffice was named Mountain Top, and a man by the name of Lance Snow was postmaster.

At the age of fourteen years I moved with my father and mother and three brothers and three sisters in 1890 to the Indian Territory, crossing the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls. There in the Cherokee Nation we were joined by some old friends of ours named Polk. We hit the trail there going west. The next place was Harshorne. From there we came to Wawoka and from there

SILVER CITY 1889

Mr. Kinsman mother of Billy Nelson.
 Carl Horn, John Horn, Missie Horn—wife
 of Bob Senter, and Boss Kinsman—wife
 of Bill Davis



Plat of Silver City by J. C. Malcolm

to Sacred Heart Mission; and from there to Purnell on the South Canadian River. The next morning we hit the trail going on west. The next place we came to was Leeper, a little store and postoffice by the side of the trail; and from there on west to dear old Silver City, Indian Territory. There we landed on the Jimmie Bond ranch. That was about the 20th of March, 1889. Silver City at that time was a great trading place for the Indians. The town of Silver City was located about two miles north of where Tuttle now stands. J. D. Lindsey was the merchant and his helper was WHI Sawyer. Silver City consisted of a store, few houses and a hotel which was run by a party by the name of Cornett. This was 1889. Will Ewin's folks were the last ones to run the hotel. That was 1890.

Billie Nelson ran a blacksmith shop. He was a half brother to Bart and Jake Herb. Mts. Dr. John Shirley lived just east of the store on the east side of the old Chisholm Trail. She was a widow having a family of five girls and two boys. Their names were Lawrence and Oscar; the girls names were Alice, Cora and Blanche and the other two were Frank Clayton's wife and Dick Fryliar's wife. The Smith and Tuttle ranch house was about a half mile north of the store.

In the spring of 1890 Silver City was moved to Minco which was the end of the Rock Island for about two years. I, J. C. Malcom, and my father hauled the goods and the building to Minco, having no road. We started across the prairie picking our way but by the time we got through hauling we had a very good road. We crossed Store Creek as it was called straight west of Silver City, running west to a lone cotton wood tree and Beaver Creek; and from there southwest going about one-fourth mile south of where Allen Hill lives now, and crossing Boggy Creek about fifty yards south of where the road is where Ray Thomas lives now. The creek did not have any banks there, and one could cross anywhere you came to it. After Silver City was moved the old schoolhouse was left standing alone out on the prairie.¹ The neighbors organized a Sunday School there. That was 1891. My mother died March 5, 1891 and was buried at the old Silver City cemetery; and my father died Feb. 14, 1899 and was also buried there where many pioneers and heroes were laid to rest.

The town of Minco was started in the year 1890. The Methodist Church was built at that date and another church was built one block west and across the street. It was called "Sunny South Christian church" where Mrs. Meta Chestnut Sager taught school until the fall of 1894, moving into the El Meta Bond College, which was a subscription school and a boarding school for the Indians. I went to school there in 1894. My father moved from the Jimmie Bond ranch to the Montford T. Johnson ranch² in July 1893, staying

¹This schoolhouse built by the leading cattlemen of Silver City was where Miss Meta Chestnut opened the first school in September, 1889. She later married, and is well known in the history of Minco as Mrs. J. Alva Sager. The school opened at Minco in 1890 where it was established later as "El Meta Bond College" with Mrs. Sager as principal until 1920.

²J. P. Bond and Montford T. Johnson were well known cattlemen in the Silver City region. They were citizens of the Chickasaw Nation as their families were of Chickasaw Indian descent. Mrs. J. P. Bond was active in securing the establishment of the El Meta Bond College at Minco. Mr. and Mrs. Bond were the parents of the late Hon. Reford Bond of Chickasaw, who served many years as member of the Oklahoma State Corporation Commission.

there until January 1, 1898, and then moving to the John Thomas ranch on the Chisholm Trail. We stayed there one year and then went to Wagoner, Indian Territory, staying there one year, and then coming back west to the town of Erin Springs on the Washita east of Chickasha, and after one year coming back to dear old Mingo, Indian Territory which was a town of the pioneer days. This being the end of the Rock Island for about two years it was a great shipping place. In the summers of 1880 and 1891, cattle were loaded into the trains day and night. As fast as one train was loaded another would take its place. That day and time there were mangers in the top of the cars for hay. J. Q. Johnson had the contract to furnish the cars with hay. The cattle would bring off the grass from \$10 to \$15 per head, and hay was 3 cents a pound in Kansas City. I know, because I shipped some with Mr. M. T. Johnson.

That was the day of the cowboys, but they were true companions if you did not betray them. They would go to church with their high boots on and their spurs. Mr. Woodworth came to Mingo in 1891. He and Mrs. Woodworth were great singers. She would lead the singing and play the organ. Mr. Woodworth first started in Mingo with a tin shop. The First National Bank was established in 1889 at Union City. C. B. Campbell, Linas Bigam and W. G. Williams ran a mercantile store on the corner where the bank now stands. In the early days when Mr. Hopkins came to Mingo he ran a hotel in a tent where the vacant lot is west of Johnson's shoe shop. When meals were ready to serve he would come out in front and ring a cow bell.

On the night of February 10, 1899, it blowed in the worst norther I ever witnessed. They said it was 12 below zero the 11th and 12th, with a howling wind. On the night of the 12th I had to go home to the bed side of my sick father. He died on the 14th.

MULHALL WAS FIRST CALLED ALFRED

A mistake inadvertently was made in the article, "The Magic City of Guthrie," appearing in the Spring number, 1956, of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, (Vol. XXXVI, No. 1), on page 66, second paragraph, first two lines. A point on the Santa Fe Railroad is given south of the north line of the Oklahoma country opened to settlement by the "Run" on April 22, 1889: "Seven miles from the north line of the territory is Alfred [now Marshall]" This should be corrected to read "Alfred [now Mulhall]" The name of the post office *Alfred*, established in present Logan County on May 18, 1889, was changed to *Mulhall* on June 6, 1890.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED, 1957-58

There were twelve additional Historical Markers erected in 1957, on Oklahoma highways, the funds for the metal plaques having been provided by local communities through their citizens interested in preserving a knowledge of Oklahoma's historic sites. These markers are the official Okla-

homa, roadside type with the history in the inscriptions written, the metal plaques ordered made and their erection completed under the auspices and contributed by the Oklahoma Historical Society in co-operation with the State Highway Commission, under its statewide program of marking historic sites begun in 1949. Another historic site was commemorated and a marker erected this spring, 1958, making a total of thirteen sites marked since January, 1957, to July 1958. The inscriptions on these markers, their locations on Oklahoma highways and the local organizations that provided the funds for the plaques are as follows:

KINGFISHER STAGE STATION: This stage station on the Old Chisholm Trail, 1867-1899, was 4 blocks no., on south side of Kingfisher Creek. The trail had two branches in this area; one for cattle was 6 miles east.

Location of Marker: In Kingfisher Rotary Club Park, on State Highway 39, at west edge of City of Kingfisher, Kingfisher County. Funds were provided for this plaque, by the Kingfisher Rotary Club Drive, George Browalec, Chairman, 1957.

KINGFISHER COLLEGE: Founded by Congregationists, this college-site one mile north. 1890-1922, achieved renown in education and character-building. It lives on at the University of Oklahoma as the Kingfisher College Chair of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics.

Location of Marker: In roadside park on east side of City of Kingfisher, Kingfisher County. Funds were provided for this plaque, by citizens of the City, under the auspices of *The Kingfisher Times and Free Press*, H. E. Hubbard, Publisher, 1957.

ROY V. CASHION: 1st Okla. Vol., U. S. Cav. After his regiment helped in the victory at Las Quasimas, Cuba, he was killed as he charged over San Juan Hill, July 1, 1898, in the Spanish-American War. This Oklahoma boy—Hennessey High School graduate—rode horseback to Guthrie, and enlisted on May 5, 1898, in "Rough Riders" under Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 81, east of present monument in Memorial Park at Hennessey, Kingfisher County. Funds were provided for this plaque, by the Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, Mrs. G. E. Ortman, Chairman, and County Dept. of Schools, Tom G. McGee, co-operating, 1957.

MASSACRE OF PAT HENNESSEY: Freighter Hennessey's charred body tied to his wagon wheel was found in a smoldering fire near 3 of his drivers, all killed on July 4, 1874, in last Indian wars when his train was on way along Chisholm Trail to Kiowa Agency. Grave is 2 blocks west.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 81, 2 blocks east of Hennessey's grave in Memorial garden, at Hennessey, Kingfisher County. Funds were provided for this plaque, by the Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, 1957.

BAKER'S RANCH: Site one-half mile west. This ranch station, noted watering place on the old Chisholm Trail, was attacked in the last Indian wars, and found deserted a few days later, July 5, 1874, by Indian Agent J. D. Miles who asked for U. S. cavalry to guard the Trail in this section. The site was laid out in 1890 as Baker City, a ghost town now.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 81, west side 4 miles south of Hennessey, Kingfisher County. Funds were provided for this plaque, by Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, 1957.

BUFFALO SPRINGS: On the Old Chisholm Trail, $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. west. From this noted watering place came the name of "Bison," 1 mi. so. "Buffalo Springs" was the camp site of Pat Hennessey and his men just before they were massacred, 7 m. so., July 4, 1874. Next day, a war band of Indians was stood off by ranchmen at the Springs. Crowds here made the Oklahoma "Run," April 22, 1889.

Location of Marker: North of Bison, Garfield County, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles on U. S. Highway 81. Funds were provided for this plaque, by Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, 1957.

BULL FOOT STATION: On the Old Chisholm Trail. This station was noted for its water well; the name, from a huge indentation in the ground here, resembling imprint of a bull's foot. Buildings were still standing on site, 50 yards east of the old Trail, and 4.5 miles south of north line of the Oklahoma land which was opened to settlers, by the great run, April 22, 1889.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 81, east side about 100 yards south of south edge of City of Hennessey, Kingfisher County. Funds for this plaque were provided by Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, 1957.

FIRST RURAL MAIL ROUTE: Oklahoma's 1st rural mail route was established at Hennessey on Aug. 15, 1900, with Albert W. Darrow as carrier, his salary at \$500 a year. J. A. Felt was the Hennessey postmaster. Route ran east 24 mi., serving population of 700, in 31 sq. mi.

Location of Marker: At junction of U. S. Highway 81 and State 51 at Hennessey, Kingfisher County. Funds for this plaque were provided by Hennessey Marker Fund Drive, 1951.

COLBERT'S FERRY: Chickasaw Nation. Ferry owned by B. F. Colbert, at old crossing on Red River 3 miles south, was noted on the Butterfield Overland Mail line organized, 1857; first U. S. mail route by stage between cities of St. Louis and San Francisco. Colbert post office was established here on Nov. 17, 1853, Walter D. Collins, postmaster.

Location of Marker: At parkway on main street of Colbert, Bryan County. Funds were provided for this plaque by citizens of Colbert.

LAST BOOMER TOWN: About $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. east. Here 300 armed "boomers" made their last stand for settlement of the Oklahoma country, led by Wm. L. Couch, and surrendered to U. S. Cavalry troops commanded by Col. E. Hatch, Jan. 26, 1885. On this site, the "boomers" had built log cabins and dugouts for their town of Stillwater founded by them on Dec. 12, 1884.

Location of Marker: On State Highway 40, about half way between crossing of Stillwater Creek and south edge of City of Stillwater, Payne County, and east of Highway. Funds were provided for this plaque by Payne County Historical Society, 1957.

CORDELL ACADEMY: Site three blocks east. Opened in 1906, under auspices of the Dutch Reformed Church, this pioneer church school taught the youth here in Christian living. Its motto was "Labor Omnia Vincit." Presidents to its close in 1911 were: Myron B. Keator, Dr. Jacob Poppen, Rev. C. H. Span. Teachers included Harold C. Amos, Laura B. Hilger and Valonia Corley.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 153, inside City Park, Cordell, Washita County. Funds were provided for this plaque by Cordell Academy Alumni Association, Mrs. A. R. Aash, member of committee, 1957.

SHADES WELL: Site two miles south. From this famous well, cattlemen watered their herds of thousands of stock while waiting shipment of the Rock Island Railroad, after long trail drives to the end of the track near old Tyron. The well was located by J. U. Shade and H. B. Fore in 1888. It was managed by Zachariah Cain to 1901—end of cattle trail days.

Location of Marker: In Texas County, at southwest edge of village of Tyron, at junction of U. S. Highway 64 and paved County highway. Funds were provided for this plaque under sponsorship of Garden Club of Hooker, Texas County, 1947.

OLD MILITARY TRAIL: To Adventures in the West. The famous Dragoon Expedition, 1834, Col. Henry Dodge in Command, passed near here on the way west to the Wichita Village on the North Fork of Red River. Near here in 1852, Capt. R. B. Marcy, 5th Inf., met his wagon train for his expedition west, in search of the source of Red River. East of here, 2 mi., was the Chisholm Trail.

Location of Marker: On U. S. Highway 81, between Duncan and Comanche, Stephens County, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Sunray Refinery. Funds for this plaque were provided by the Duncan Rotary Club, Judge John G. Cliff, member of committee, 1948.