

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN GEOLOGY



First Fossil found  
in Oklahoma, 1852

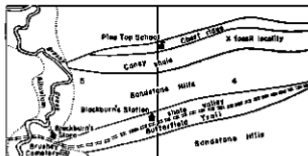
The location of the first fossil discovered in Oklahoma has been determined by the map of "Oklahoma's Butterfield Trail" which appeared in *The Chronicles* for Spring, 1959. The interesting history of this fossil, the name of which is a latinized form of "Choctaw" from that of the Indian nation where it was found in 1852, is contributed here by Dr. Carl C. Branson, Director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, Norman:

## OKLAHOMA'S FIRST FOSSIL

The first fossil described from what is now the state of Oklahoma was collected by Dr. George G. Shumard, surgeon on the *Mercy Expedition* of 1852. The specimen was described by his brother, B. F. Shumard, in a paper written in 1852 and printed in the *Transactions of the St. Louis Academy of Science* in 1863 (Vol. I, pp. 109-110). The only locality given was "on the farm of J. Blackburn, in the Choctaw Nation". The species was named *Goniatites choctawensis*, and it is a form now widely recognized in central United States as a valuable index to rocks of late Middle Mississippian age.

The original locality had not been relocated and the name J. Blackburn does not appear on the rolls of the Choctaw Nation. It is important to locate the species geographically and stratigraphically in order to be certain just what it is (the type specimen is lost and Shumard did not figure it). In 1958 a committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society retraced the route of the Butterfield Overland Mail and in its report (*The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 4, [Spring, 1959] p. 17) quoted from Conkling's book "one J. G. Blackburn kept a store at Brushy."<sup>1</sup> The committee found the remains of the Brushy Cemetery and gave the precise location SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 2 N., R. 15 E). This pins the locality of the fossil down to sections 5 or 4 where Caney shale is known to occur along the old stage road and along the south side of the chert ridge near Pine Top school. The species *Goniatites choctawensis* then is to be interpreted on the basis of specimens which occur in the area of the defunct village of Brushy, Pittsburg County, and it is thus the more coarsely ornamental variety. Authors have assumed that the finely ornamented form from near Wapanucka was the typical shell.

<sup>1</sup>The *Butterfield Overland Mail* (Glendale, 1947).



Map showing discovery site of Oklahoma's  
First Fossil (1858)

The course of the old road in the Brushy area is geologically determined, for it followed the narrow shale valley developed on Coney shale and Springer shale brought to the surface along a fault and bounded on both sides by bouldery Atoka sandstone hills. Researches in history have in this case helped geologists find out the real nature of an important fossil, and geologic conditions determined the route of early travel to lead a collector past the place where the fossil occurs.

— Carl C. Branson.

#### SOME NOTES ON EDUCATION AMONG THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES BY THE LATE DR. A. GRANT EVANS OF INDIAN TERRITORY

The following letter from Dr. A. Grant Evans has been contributed by Dr. Frank A. Balyeat of the University of Oklahoma, received by him when he was doing research on the history of Education in Indian Territory, in 1926.

Dr. A. Grant Evans was well known in the Indian Territory as President of Henry Kendall College (Muskogee, 1898). He was a member of the convention for the proposed State of Sequoyah in 1905, and was the designer of an official seal for the proposed new state, afterward making some suggestions from this Sequoyah seal that were incorporated in the design for the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma in 1907. He served as President of the University of Oklahoma from 1908 to 1911.

In contributing a transcript of Dr. Evans' letter, Dr. Balyeat says that he was an Englishman and acquainted with the work of Bell and Lancaster, which adds a special note of interest in the letter. Further biographical notes on Dr. A. Grant Evans gives his birthplace as Madras, Southern India

(September 9, 1858). He was educated in London, and as a graduate of the British and Foreign Training School (the oldest English normal school founded by Joseph Lancaster) served for a year as teacher and principal of the public schools of Barls Barton, England, before accepting a position in the Cherokee Male Seminary near Tahlequah in 1884. He studied for the ministry and was ordained a minister by the Presbyterian Church in 1887, after which he served in pastorates in the Cherokee Nation, Kansas, Oregon and Colorado before he returned to the Indian Territory ten years later, elected President Henry Kendall College, now Tulsa University.

*STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AND JUNIOR COLLEGE*

Santa Barbara, California

May 22, 1928

Mr. F. A. Balyeat  
Mayfield, Calif.

My Dear Mr. Balyeat:-

I wish it were possible for me to give you a really helpful reply to your letter of the 19th inst, but such MSS. and other data I have gathered is not where I can really get at it. Educational work in the Five Civilized Tribes began with missionary work while they were still in the Southeastern States. Its inception is one of the romances of the history of Education. It was well into the last quarter of the 18th (19th) century before anything like universal opportunity for education was regarded as a subject for practical consideration. A young chaplain of the Army under the East India Co. in India received instructions to make a school for the numerous orphan children of British soldiers in India. This school was at Madras and the chaplain's name was Bell. Having no possibility of securing competent assistants he developed a well worked out system of monitors. The school became famous, was visited by many tourists and the Madras system, as it was called, was thought by many to suggest a way by which education might be brought within reach of all without ruinous expense. Early in the last century a pamphlet on this scheme fell into the hands of the son of an Old East Indian soldier. The lad's name was Joseph Lancaster. His family lived in Southwark, one of the most densely populated and least cultured sections of London, but he got his father to let him have the use of a large barn to start a school there. It succeeded wonderfully and the British and Foreign School Society organized to develop similar work throughout the country. Lancaster worked under them for awhile and then became restive under restraints the organization put upon him. He came to America and lectured extensively on the Bell and Lancaster system. Some enthusiastic New Englanders interested in his work among the Indians thought they saw an opportunity for doing a big work at a small cost and the first missionaries sent to the Southeastern States and to the Union Mission, near the Salt Springs on Grand River, were commissioned to organize schools on the "Lancasterian Plan." This is of little interest pedagogically for the plan could hardly work where the problem was to get enough pupils together to keep a teacher fairly busy. It is of interest educationally as showing how the world was coming to regard universal education as practically possible. The English school system was evolved out of the bold experiment of

Joseph Lancaster and the growth of our American System and its rapid extension also owed a good deal to Bell and Lancaster.

You would do well, if you study the educational work of the missionaries, to try to get some of the records of the Union Missionary Society and the work of the Moravian Church for the early period. Miss Alice Robertson, grand daughter of Dr. S. A. Worcester who worked among the Cherokees from about 1825 to 1850, and daughter of W. S. Robertson, who, a generation later, did fine work educationally for the Creeks, would be able to give you some interesting data about this phase of the work. The Reports of the various Missionary Societies might give you some interesting facts, but it is slow work sifting them out.

My own connection with educational work in Ind. Ter. began in 1834. In the summer of that year I met Robert L. Owen, then Secretary of the Cherokee Board of Education, who was taking a party of Cherokee teachers to a Chautauqua in East Tenn. I was teaching in Nashville at the time and helped entertain the visitors. Shortly afterwards Owen wrote offering me a position in the Cherokee Male Seminary and so my connection with the work began. I found the Cherokees with about 100 public schools and the Male and Female Seminaries, practically boarding high schools. After about two years work the Pres. Bd. of Home Missions asked me to take charge of their educational work in the Cherokee Nation. I was strongly of the opinion that the picking out a few bright young people and sending them to boarding schools was not satisfactory and accepted the commission with the understanding that I should try to organize neighborhood schools in districts and supplied by the Cherokee school system, putting at least two teachers in charge of each school and making them available for the children of white renters. It was quite plain that the white pressure was going to force the end of the Indian dream of keeping their own territory, and it seemed to me imperative that the children should learn to understand one another and that school privileges should help bring in a better class of white renters. We made some little progress in this line so that at the end of about ten years the urgent demand was for intermediate and high schools and the beginning of college work. Miss Robertson can tell you far better than I about the Creek and Seminole Systems. The Choctaws and Chickasaws put some of their schools into the hands of Missionary Societies — and instead of starting high schools, they paid the expenses of their young people in Eastern Academies and Colleges.

I was out of the Territory from 1850-1857 and came back to find Henry Kendall College just organizing as the outgrowth of the work done years before. Baptists and Methodists also had good institutions doing some work of college grade.

At a Teachers Association meeting held, I think, in 1858, when the Federal Govt. had taken possession of the Indian school systems and Congressmen were nominating their constituents for positions in Indian schools carried on with Indian funds, I made the suggestion that Congress should be asked to make an appropriation to increase and develop the Indian School System and make them available for non-Indian citizens residing in the school districts. I was asked to place the plan before Congress and spent some time at the Lake Mohawk Conference and in Washington. That, however, is a very long story and is more interesting as a political than educational study. We got the appropriation for \$300,000. Until stretched the appropriation was continued and after stretched it has been continued as a grant to the Educational Funds of Oklahoma in consideration of the fact that Indian lands can not be seized for non-payment of taxes. This

was Senator Owens' work and practically gave the Indians the assurance of full privileges in the State Educational System.

I am afraid that all this, while of some interest as a study of relations between the U. S. Govt. and the Indian wards is not of much value for a thesis on Educational Development.

I think Dr. Thoburn, of the Hist. Assn., Okla. City, will be able to steer you towards helpful data. Wishing you all success,

Yours very cordially,

(signed) A. Grant Evans

#### *Arapaho Artwork, a FIRST IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPERS*

A half century after the publication of the first newspaper in Indian Territory (*Cherokee Advocate*, 1844) saw the planting of many weekly newspapers in the new towns that mushroomed over the wide, open country in western Oklahoma after the big runs for homestead claims in this region. They began suddenly and many died as swiftly yet they had a place in the life of the people in the great movement that made Oklahoma in history. The following letter from Frank Filmore telling about his newspaper experiences in this country is in the Grant Foreman Collection in the Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, written to Carolyn Thomas Foreman when her well known volume *Oklahoma Imprints* was nearing publication:

Osark, Ark., 5/29/84

Mrs. Grant Foreman  
Muskogee, Okla.

My Dear Mrs. Foreman:

As I was born on the last day of December, 1858, and am now more than "eighty years young", instead of your kind letter being a nuisance, it gives me the happy excuse for indulging in the garrulousness incident to such age.

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I learned the printers trade in a job (commercial) printing office in that city.

Was foreman of a weekly newspaper in Georgetown, Kentucky for one year in 1879.

That was my only newspaper experience until I went to Oklahoma.

In 1881, William Seaman (a young printer) and I bought - mostly on time - *The Frisco News* - the town of Frisco was on the north side of the Canadian river, just across from the present town of Yukon. It died when Yukon was built.

You no doubt remember that the land opening the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation to settlement provided that the land be surveyed into counties, that a half section of land near the center of each county be surveyed into lots for the "County Seat," and that the Territorial Governor (Gov. Seay) should appoint a full set of county and city officers to take office the day of the opening of the country to settlement.

Two of my good friends in Frisco were selected by the governor as county commissioners of "G" county (now Custer) and they promised me the official county printing if I would move the paper to Arapaho and as our town was about dead I gladly accepted.

The date for opening the Cheyenne country was set for April 19th, 1892, and we loaded up a wagon, drawn by two large mules, with enough of our material to get out the paper, together with enough newspaper paper for several issues. I had bought a pony on which to make the "run" to the townsite to file on a lot. Two days after the opening I traded the pony for a large tent and was ready for business - but our material had not come in. So I hired a team and took the buck track and found it stuck on a sand hill. We pulled it in, and about ten days later - the exact date has slipped me in the numerous happenings since then - the first issue of the *Arapaho Arrow* came off the "army press" - the first newspaper printed in Oklahoma west of the Rock Island Railroad.

What transpired the following six months constitutes the saddest period of my long life. I had been in poor health the previous year and constantly under the doctor's care, and my wife told me long afterwards that he had told her that I would be lucky if I lived a year. I kept the paper going until the middle of June, 1892, when I was taken violently ill, and lay in that hot tent for two weeks with a high fever and about half the time unconscious. Judging from what our doctor had told her, my wife was sure my time had come so she hired a man with a spring wagon, put a cot in the back end of it, put me on the cot, and started for her father's home near El Reno, with only the hope that she and our two small daughters would have their help and sympathy at my funeral. But the Divine Reaper didn't have my number then - and hasn't got it yet!

The trip proved a stimulant. When we stopped to camp the first night and I smelled the cooking I asked for something to eat - the first nourishment I had taken for five or six days - and when we reached my father-in-law's home late the next evening I got out of the wagon and walked into the house!

A couple of weeks later I went up to El Reno and called on my friend the editor of *The El Reno Herald*. During the course of our conversation he asked me if I could write a special article for his paper. I wrote the article and he seemed so well pleased with it that he offered me a fair weekly salary to edit his paper until I was able to return to Arapaho.

In about three weeks I was ready to go back to the *Arrow* when my wife was taken down with typhoid fever, and had such a severe spell of it that we were not able to leave for Arapaho until the last of November, 1892.

In the meantime I had written my partner that I would need no money from the *Arrow* and for him to save all he possibly could to apply on the debt we owed. I received no word from him.

Imagine my surprise and consternation on arriving at Arapaho, to find that he had turned the plant over to the man who held the small mortgage on it, and the latter had already issued the first edition of the *Arapaho Citizen*, successor to the *Arapaho Arrow*.

Of course I ranted and raved, cursed a little, and threatened much but got no where. The fellow had the plant, had started his paper and intended holding what he had. He did offer me a job on the paper but that was the best he would do, but that did not suit me. Mentions I found two good friends. My attorney had the justice of the peace issue a subpoena for our man to appear before him the following day at 10 a.m. When court was opened my attorney

stated that the defendant had without due process unlawfully taken possession of my property and asked the court to rule that neither the defendant nor I should enter or use the property until the court should hear and determine our rights under penalty of fine and imprisonment for contempt of court, and set the final hearing of the case about three weeks in the future. That spelled the death of the *Arapaho Citizen*.

Passing over the many following negotiations - I finally proposed that he turn over the plant to me to use until the mortgage was due (the following April 1903) in consideration for which I would dismiss the suit against him and give the plant back to him on that date without question or contest. He agreed.

My first idea was to continue publishing the *Arapaho Arrow*, but after due consideration decided to wipe out the past and make a new start. So I went to work and on Friday, December 31st, 1902, (my 30th birthday) the first issue of the *Arapaho Bee* appeared and was mailed to the former subscribers of the *Arapaho Arrow*.

Before the time limit on the plant I was using I learned of a plant of a defunct newspaper that could be bought for a bargain and persuaded my good friend James H. Lawton to join me in obtaining it, he to be business manager of the *Bee* and I to be editor, compositor and pressman and we equal partners in the venture.

Lawton was a few years younger than I, born in Paris, Ill., an ex-school teacher, and an square a shooter as ever lived. In 1901 I turned the *Bee* over to him and retired to my homestead, and have stuck to an Oklahoma farm until I moved here last October.

The *Arrow* and *Bee* were republican.

My father died when I was 16 years old leaving a widow and seven children, of whom I was the second son, so I did not finish high school, but during my first two years as printer, apprentice I attended night school in Cincinnati.

The *Argus*, Democratic, was started in 1893 by two young printers Blute & Herwalter, from El Reno. They drifted out in less than two years - were succeeded by a lawyer whose name I have forgotten. He did not amount to much as a lawyer, writer, or citizen and soon faded from three fields. He was succeeded by Fred Snodgrass, a good fellow, good lawyer and county attorney.<sup>1</sup>

The *Arapaho Clarion*, Republican, was founded on the ruins of the *Argus* by John B. Nicholas who came to Arapaho with a commission as postmaster in his pocket at the opening of the country. Not long after Cleveland's election, "Old Nick" gave way to a deserving Democrat but was elected sheriff of the county in 1894. When he came before the republican county convention in 1896 he was turned down by the convention and for some strange reason he blamed his defeat on the *Bee*, and so he started the *Clarion*, as he and his friends loudly proclaimed "to starve out the *Bee*." Of course a man and a newspaper with no higher aim than that could not last long!

Nicholas soon soured on his job and sold out to W. J. Hawkins, a hale fellow who appeared out of nowhere. He was a good newspaper man and a good printer and we became good friends. But he had an "itching foot" and he let the *Clarion* die and shortly after that I received a letter from him and a copy of a paper he was printing at

<sup>1</sup>Fred A. Snodgrass arrived in Arapaho in April, 1900, from his home in Kentucky, and established the *Custer County News* which was a weekly still published in 1903.—Carolyn Thomas Foreman, *Oklahoma Impress* (Norman, 1936), p. 269.

Tocumwari, N. M. and about a year later another from a far distant state.

That completes the newspaper history of Arapaho except that Frank Smith, a printer, started a paper there which lasted only a few months; also Ed Cowles, a real estate man did the same trick. I do not even remember the names of their papers now and they are not worth recording.

The *Custer County Chronicle* was founded by Shiva & Dulaney at Weatherford in 1899. Dulaney dropped out and Shiva moved the paper to Clinton in 1901, and after a hectic existence it passed out.

Frank Fillmore.

Cizark, Arkansas

### GEARY, ITS NAME AND FOUNDING

The first post office<sup>1</sup> was established at Geary on October 12, 1893, with William Wilson as postmaster. The new town was in old 'C' County organized at the opening of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation on April 19, 1892. The County was soon named "Blaine" by vote in the first county elections, in honor of U.S. Senator James G. Blaine from Maine, one-time Republican candidate for President. The town was named "Geary" in honor of Ed Guerrier, the son of a French trapper and a Cheyenne Indian woman, who lived on his allotment on the Blaine-Canadian county line. Guerrier was well educated and respected but the people of the frontier had trouble in trying to pronounce the French name and it became "Geary" as approved by the Post Office Department. These notes on the name have been contributed to *The Chronicles* by the Blaine County Historical Association along with the following brief history of Geary, written by Grace Scitter in a 1957 project of Blaine County history sponsored by the County Association:

#### GREETINGS TO OKLAHOMA ON HER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

This scribble is written from Geary, Oklahoma, a thriving little city in the southern part of Blaine County, with a population of 1604 according to the latest census.

Our little city is conveniently situated on the divide between the two Canadian rivers, which, according to the old Indian legend makes it immune to ever being hit by tornadoes.

Be that as it may, however,

Geary was founded soon after the opening of the Cheyenne and Arapaho country to white settlement in 1892, and when the first railroad appeared in 1908 drew a trade from 100 miles north west.

Blaine County's oldest bank is located at Geary. This bank, also one of the oldest in the State, was accepted as a National Bank in 1902.

<sup>1</sup>George H. Shirk, "First Post Offices within the Boundaries of Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXX, No. 1 (Spring, 1952).



and is still in operation with assets totalling more than 1½ million dollars.

The little city has a live Chamber of Commerce; good schools, Boy Scout and Camp Fire organizations, and fine churches. An up-to-date dial telephone system is in operation which extends to all surrounding communities. The city supports a Public Library; also gives perpetual care to its cemetery which is located in a beautiful setting west of town, with a hard-surfaced roadway extending to it.

Geary is the home of Neuthe H. Seger, son of John H. Seger who is known far and wide for his many years of service with Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians. His daughter Miss Genevieve Seger, is a director of the Oklahoma State Historical Society, and president of the Blaine County Historical Association.

Through the efforts of this organization, in 1936, a historical marker was erected 1½ miles north of Geary on highway 281 honoring the memory of Jesse Chisholm, pioneer trail blazer whose grave is about 5 miles north east of the city.

A number of our leading business and professional men grew up here. One of the city's first rural mail carriers lives here in retirement.

We pride ourselves that we are situated in a healthful environment, as several nonagenarians have spent their declining years amongst us, our oldest citizen having just passed his ninety-ninth milestone.

Geary bears the distinction of having been the first Flag City in the Nation.

To quote from an editorial of one of our newspapers: "Our city has built a community which has a solidarity and a certain spirit of loyalty which soon attaches the passerby to it. Just be careful when you fight in Geary or something will grab you and you will never leave."

—Grace Seltzer

#### MEMORIAL PLAQUE HONORING DR. EMMETT STARR, CHEROKEE HISTORIAN

A memorial to the eminent Cherokee historian, Dr. Emmet Starr, planned some years ago with Mrs. Grant Foreman as one of the first contributors, was placed by the Cherokee Seminaries Student Association, on the wall of the Library of Northeastern State College in 1958, in the form of a bronze plaque commemorating the contributions made by Dr. Starr to the history of the Cherokee Nation. Dr. Starr's fine genealogical records of Cherokee mixed-blood families were basic in determining the final rolls of the Cherokee Nation when the Dawes Commission was making allotments of lands in severalty to members of the Nation. Dr. Starr was the author of a number of volumes including *Early History of the Cherokees* (Kansas City, 1916) and his noted genealogical work *History of the Cherokee Indians* (Warden Co., Oklahoma City, 1922). The bronze plaque memorial bears the inscription: "Emmet Starr, M.D. Librarian 1913-1916 —Author—History of The Cherokee Indians—Cherokees West."

After the death of Dr. Starr in 1930, his genealogical and history notes along with other original papers were given to the Oklahoma Historical Society for preservation. These rare papers were kept in the Society's vault until recently when removed to a steel file in the Library for special arranging and cataloging to make them readily available to researchers. Mr. R. H. Fowler (Cherokee descent) now of Claremore, who recently visited the Historical Society and is greatly impressed by this valuable Starr Collection, has stated in a letter to the Editor:

Two years ago, in answer to a letter request, Dr. Charles Evans, Oklahoma Historical Society Secretary, gave me the privilege of inspecting the private papers of my noted kinsman, Dr. Emmet Starr.

Dr. Starr was the best versed, on Cherokee history and old family genealogical lines in the far back past that has ever lived. It was his chosen life work from his young days. No one dare dispute or go back of Dr. Starr's records for he was considered the highest recognized authority living at that time.

Some are familiar with Dr. Starr's complicated code as given in his published *History of the Cherokee Indians* (Warden). When . . . . Dr. Starr's invaluable material of manuscripts and notes were taken from the vault, . . . they had been untouched for years. His codes perplexed me, . . .

The four sets of books were accurate cross indexes of the 30 old families and had been used to verify names for the Cherokee tribal roll. There is no doubt in my mind that these books are the correct records continuing into the seventh and eighth generations for some families. His printed history ends with the sixth generation only and contains many typographical errors.

The following quote is from a letter written by Dr. Starr to a subscriber (of his 1922, Warden publication): "I wrote the original sketches and they were incorrectly typewritten and then printed without giving me a chance to correct proof, hence this and hundreds of other mistakes."

The Editor here may add a word of comment on this statement by Dr. Starr, which will interest some readers. When Dr. Starr's *History of the Cherokee Indians* was on the press in 1922, there was a strike of printers in the Warden Company's plant, Oklahoma City. This caused trouble in the printing and final completion of the book as well as in proof reading, much to Dr. Starr's distress. He was a very sensitive man, and never forgave nor forgot this, looking on it as a blow to his work as a writer of authentic history. Nevertheless, his *History of the Cherokee Indians*, especially the section on Cherokee genealogy, has remained a great work.

(M.E.W.)

VOTING BY THE OSAGE INDIANS IN THE FIRST  
OKLAHOMA ELECTIONS IN 1906-7

The Oklahoma Enabling Act titled "An Act to enable the people of Oklahoma and Indian Territory to form a constitution and State government and be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States..." was a part of the "Hamilton Statehood Bill" approved by Congress on June 14, 1906, and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Section 2 of the Oklahoma Enabling Act provides:

That all male persons over the age of twenty-one years, who are citizens of the United States, or who are members of any Indian nation or tribe in said Indian Territory and Oklahoma, and who have resided within the limits of said proposed State for at least six months next preceding the election, are hereby authorized to vote for and choose delegates to form a constitutional convention for said proposed State; and all persons qualified to vote for said delegates shall be eligible to serve as delegates; and the delegates to form such convention shall be one hundred and twelve in number, fifty-five of who shall be elected by the people of the Territory of Oklahoma, and fifty-five by the people of the Indian Territory, and two shall be elected by the electors residing in the Osage Indian Reservation in the Territory of Oklahoma....

Both political parties lined up in Osage County (comprising the old Osage Indian Reservation) in the hot campaign for election of the two delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Some interesting items of this campaign are mounted in an old notebook in the historical collection of Mr. Frank F. Finney of Oklahoma City. His father, the late Thomas M. Finney, a well known early day trader on the Osage Reservation, was a candidate for election as delegate to the Constitutional Convention from this "56th District."

The first item in Mr. Finney's notebook exhibit is a bright red campaign, lapel ribbon emblazoned with the words in black letters, "Osage Reservation— We Want Statehood." Beside this, are campaign cards announcing the two candidates "Thomas M. Finney, Gray Horse, Oklahoma" and "Isaac D. Taylor, Republican Nominees for Delegates to the Constitutional Convention, Osage Indian Reservation." The next page of the notebook shows an original handbill bearing the name "Osages" in big black letters, and announcing a meeting of "Tom Finney and I. D. Taylor" with the "Citizens" of the Osage Indian Village on "Monday, Nov. 5th at 4 o'clock" in 1906, "Every Osage Citizen Should be Present."

Mounted on the third page of the notebook is a small pamphlet, "Platform— Adopted by the Republican Party— at the Constitutional Convention of Osage County, held at

Pawhuska, Sept. 18, 1906," printed by *The Daily Capital*, Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The Committee on Resolutions gave its report, stating in the introduction:

The Republicans of the Osage Indian Reservation, in convention assembled, express gratification that the progress of events has made it possible that we may participate in the future conduct of public affairs, as contemplated by the true theory of Republican government, and that henceforth we shall be accorded all the rights and privileges of other citizens of the United States.

# Osages

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**Tom Finney and I. D. Taylor will meet and council with the Citizens at the Indian village at the camp**

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**Monday Nov. 5th at 4 o'clock**

**in the afternoon.**

1906

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**EVERY OSAGE CITIZEN SHOULD BE PRESENT.**

The next item of the exhibit is a printed page showing the "Official Vote of the Reservation" tabulated from the election returns of November 6, 1906. The total vote cast was 6,003 in 28 precincts, many of these all-Indian "towns," plus 4 wards in Pawhuska. Some of the Indian towns listed are Osage Camp, Black Dog, Nelogany, Big Heart. The two Democrats were the successful candidates: T. J. Leahy, (intermarried Osage), Pawhuska, 1,526 votes, and J. S. Quarles, Fairfax, 1,527 votes. The number of votes cast for the Republican candidates shows 1,385 for I. D. Taylor,<sup>1</sup> and 1,356 for Finney. Two other candidates (Buck and Speers) in

Osage County received a total of 98 votes. It is reported that the total votes cast had a high percentage of Osage Indians of legal age voting. In line with provisions of the Enabling Act for legal voters, there was a good, representative vote cast by the Osage people in the adoption of the new State Constitution and the Prohibition measure, in 1907.

The legal, Indian voters of both territories took interest in the Oklahoma elections of 1906 and 1907, especially in the nations (Five Civilized Tribes) of the Indian Territory or eastern section. Persons of Indian descent served in the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention.

Last winter (1959) when the question of the repeal of the prohibition law was before the Oklahoma Legislature and was being discussed throughout the state, some speaker, or speakers in a public meeting and on TV programs made the statement that the Indians of Osage County wanted to vote on the prohibition law, as United States citizens, for they had not had the opportunity of voting in the first Oklahoma elections before and at the time of statehood when the constitution and first laws for the new state were adopted. Many who heard the statement in public meetings and TV programs were greatly surprised over this bit offered as history since all Indians living in Oklahoma are citizens of the State and have actively participated in political and professional life since Oklahoma's admission to the Union in 1907. Several persons called the Editor here in the Historical Society last winter for comments and factual information on the history of Osage voting in the first Oklahoma elections. These notes are offered in *The Chronicles* since they may be of interest to the readers of this summer number of the magazine.

(M.H.W.)

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<sup>1</sup>As these historical notes were being written for *The Chronicles*, word was received of the death of Isaac D. Taylor on July 19, 1959. He was an attorney at Pawluskas before statehood, and had made his home in Oklahoma City in recent years. - Ed.

## 1959 HISTORICAL TOUR

Without any great amount of fan fare, the 1959 Oklahoma Historical Society tour got under way at 6:00 a.m. Thursday June 4. There were one hundred thirty people in the party with most of them riding in the three big modern buses that were the epitome of luxury for that type of travel. A few made the trip in cars, giving an appearance of bigness to the caravan.

Halt was called at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee for breakfast. While everyone was partaking of a sumptuous morning repast and enjoying the hospitality of Shawnee folk, the heavens opened and the flood descended. In the vernacular of the Southwest it rained "cats and dogs." Eventually the rain subsided sufficiently for the tourists to again board the buses, but it caused them to forego the side trip to Sacred Heart Mission in Pottawatomie County. A stop was made, however, at the site of the Jesse Chisholm Trading Post east of Asher. Everyone disembarked and walked to the vicinity of the spring and trading post location.

Rains continued in such intensity that only a brief stop was made at the Spring Baptist Mission west of Sasakwa. When noon time came, the buses rolled on to the beautiful campus of East Central State College at Ada where a fine luncheon was served and program presented. Judge Oral Busby, attorney, was master of ceremonies.

The chief point of interest visited in the afternoon was at Emet where stands the home of the late Governor Douglas H. Johnston of the Chickasaw Nation. In going through the rooms of this house, it was easy to discern the life of luxury led by wealthy Chickasaws. Mrs. Juanita Johnston Smith and Douglas Johnston, of the Johnston family, were present and acted as hosts to the visitors.

Shortly before sun down the entourage arrived at Texoma Lodge where everyone was to spend two nights.

The dinner program for Thursday night was held in the ball room of Texoma Lodge, with groups from Durant and Madill in charge. Former Governor Raymond S. Gary was the principal speaker. Following the program, many of the tourists boarded a pleasure boat for a cruise on Lake Texoma.

Everyone was up bright and early Friday morning, ready for another day of sightseeing. Following breakfast the buses headed east with the first stop at Bokchito to view the old Choctaw jail standing in that town, the iron building having been moved here from the site of Mayhew, Choctaw Nation. After

leaving Bokchito the group turned off to the northeast on local roads from Sawyer to where old Spencer Academy once stood. All that remain now are some foundations stones, and chimney sites where buildings once stood. It was here that Uncle Wallace and Aunt Minerva, Negro slaves, who were hired out by the master to work for the missionaries, hummed and crooned the melodies that were later to be known throughout the world as the spirituals, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Steal Away to Jesus." Under a giant oak tree, a group of young colored people had assembled and sang those spirituals in a manner reminiscent of the old slave days and early American Negro music. The singers were roundly applauded by the tourists. This program had been arranged by Mr. William Schooler, long time Hugo editor.

Civic leaders of Idabel sponsored the Friday luncheon, which was held in the Methodist Church of that city. Following the luncheon the tourists headed north to Broken Bow, then northeast a few miles to the largest tree in Oklahoma. This is a cypress which is forty-five feet in diameter at the base. Some "doubting Thomases" in this group took along a big tape and proceeded to measure the girth of the forest giant. They found that R. G. Miller, tour director, had not exaggerated in giving the size of the tree.

On the swing back westward to Texoma Lodge, stops were made near Swink at Oklahoma's oldest house built by the government as a Choctaw chief's residence in 1836-7; and at old Wheelock Church, established in 1832. Mrs. Charlotte Chrysler, present owner of the old Choctaw Chief's house, gave the mantle piece from the living room to the Oklahoma Historical Society. She received the sincere thanks of President George H. Shirk of the Oklahoma Historical Society, along with those from other officials and officers of the Society. At the old Wheelock Church, which is still in use, the group sat in the pews and sang the "Church in the Wildwood," led by Miss Genevieve Seger, a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

After another night's rest at Lake Texoma, the buses rolled out on the last leg of the journey. The first Saturday morning stop was at the site of Fort Washita, where some of the stone walls and chimneys are still standing. This famous old fortification was located by and construction began under Brig. General Zachary Taylor, who was later to win fame in the Army during the War with Mexico, and finally to become President of the United States. One could stand in the clearing which had once been the parade ground and imagine troops passing in review as old "Rough and Ready" sat on his horse and acknowledged the salutes from the passing units.

At the time of its founding in 1842, Fort Washita was truly an outpost on the southwestern frontier of the United States. Only a few miles to the south, across the Red River, was Mexican Territory, while not far to the west was the lands roamed by the Comanche, the Kiowa and their allies. The old well that was used by the troopers of Zachary Taylor's and Jefferson Davis' day is still in use. This is a historic site that every effort should be made to restore and rehabilitate.

To many people of Choctaw blood and other leading citizens of Oklahoma, the site where once stood the town of Boggy Depot, is sacred ground. It is here that some of the most prominent families of early days lived, and it was a center from which emanated considerable culture and trade. Many members of these families are buried in the nearby cemetery. The site is now one of peace and quiet in the dense woods of the Boggy River bottoms. Miss Wright lectured to the group on the history of Boggy Depot as she did at a number other sites visited on the Tour.

After partaking of an excellent buffet style luncheon, prepared and arranged by a citizens committee in Atoka, the tourists participated in the making of some modern history. This was done when they took part in the dedicatory ceremonies of Oklahoma City's southeastern water reservoir. One of the Oklahoma Historical Society's on-site markers "Geary's Station," was placed in the stone work at the east end of the reservoir dam. This marker indicated the location of a stop on the Butterfield stage route and the dedicatory remarks were made by President George Shirk, with Miss Muriel Wright and Mrs. John Prizzell unveiling the marker. The Geary stage stand site, indicated on the marker, will be inundated when the reservoir is filled.

It was a solemn group that viewed the few remaining undisturbed graves of the old Confederate Cemetery, one mile north of Atoka. This cemetery has been placed under the control of the Oklahoma Historical Society who, with the assistance of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at Atoka, have erected a granite marker at the site, with an inscription giving the history of "Middle Boggy Battle, 1864." Some twenty-five to thirty graves of Confederate dead are in the part of the cemetery now under the control of the Society. An on-site marker has also been placed at this cemetery and other improvements are in progress.

The last stop was at the art museum of St. Gregory's College in Shawnee. The work done by Stephen A. Gyernek, Curator, in recent rearrangement of the Museum has been outstanding, and the tourists showed great interest in the exhibits that were on display.



Late in the afternoon on Saturday, June 6, the caravan headed for the Oklahoma Historical Society Building in Oklahoma City and trail's end.

E.L.F.

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NOTE ON PUBLICATION OF *The Chronicles*  
FOR SUMMER, 1959

This 1959 summer number of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (Vol. XXXVII, No. 2) is nearly two months late in publication. The annual contract for printing the magazine by bids through the State Board of Affairs, usually made early in July, was let and announcement made this year the week in August, under the new Central Purchasing Agency as provided by the recent law of the State Legislature. The organization of this new Agency over at the State Capitol involved a tremendous task beginning July 1st for those in charge and there were unavoidable delays since the Agency takes over purchasing for all State departments and institutions. We make this explanation to readers to *The Chronicles* because we regret the late completion of the summer number though we feel fortunate to have secured a printing contract as early as August under the circumstances this year.

—The Editor