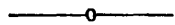


NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

SPRING NUMBER OF *The Chronicles* REQUESTED

Copies of the spring number of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* for 1944 (Vol. XXII, Number 1) are needed by the Historical Society, the demand having exceeded the supply soon after publication. Those having copies for spring (1944), which they do not plan to preserve, are requested to return them to the Oklahoma Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma. The spring number of *The Chronicles* (1944) was the first appearing with the new cover carrying an imprint of the Oklahoma State Flag in colors.



STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION RECORD

A complete transcript of the record of the "Proceedings of the State Capitol Commission of the State of Oklahoma" is now in the Library of the Society, typewritten from the original record in the Office of the Secretary of State by Mrs. Edith Mitchell, now Custodian of the Newspaper Department, and Mrs. Rella Looney, Clerk-Archivist, both of the Historical Society staff. The completed transcript consists of 1,240 legal size pages, typed double space, bound in two volumes.

The State Capitol Commission had supervision of all matters in the construction of the State Capitol Building and was provided for by the State Legislature by an act approved May 23, 1913 (*State of Oklahoma, Session Laws of 1913*, pp. 58-97). This Commission was organized on October 4, 1913: W. B. Anthony, Chairman; P. J. Goulding, Vice-Chairman; S. A. Douglas, Member, and E. W. Gist, Temporary Secretary. On July 8, 1914, Ira Mitchell of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, was selected as Secretary by the State Capitol Commission, all members present.

Contract for architect was signed by members of the Capitol Commission with the firm of S. A. Layton and S. Wemyss Smith for preparing plans and specifications for the Capitol Building of the State of Oklahoma, on March 20, 1914.¹ Ground was broken to begin excavation work on Monday, July 20, 1914, a ceremony marking the occasion attended by Governor Lee Cruce and other State officials.

Re-organization of the State Capitol Commission was provided by an act of the Legislature approved on March 18, 1915 (*State of Oklahoma, Session Laws of 1915*, pp. 240-244), by which act the Governor served as a member and presided and performed the duties of chairman at all meetings of the Commission. In its first meet-

¹ *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* XX (Spring, 1944), No. 1, pp. 122-23.

ing after the approval of this act, the Commission created a Citizens Advisory Committee with officers and members as follows: Joseph Huckins, Jr., President; Ed. S. Vaught, Secretary, and E. K. Gaylord, Tom Hale, H. W. Gibson, F. M. Pirtle, and S. W. Hogan.²

The contract for the construction of the State Capitol Building was signed with the James Stewart & Company, Inc., on August 3, 1915, in a meeting of the Capitol Commission with all members present, the signatures appearing on the contract as follows: James Stewart & Co., Inc., Contractor, by J. H. Fredickson, Its Attorney in fact; The State of Oklahoma by R. L. Williams, Governor and Ex-Officio Chairman of the State Capitol Commission of the State of Oklahoma, P. J. Goulding, S. A. Douglas, W. B. Anthony; and attested by W. A. Rowan, Ass't. Secretary, and Ira Mitchell, Secretary of the State Capitol Commission.

On October 2, 1915, Ira Mitchell resigned the position of Secretary to the Commission, his private business affairs requiring his entire time and attention, and A. N. Leecraft of Durant, Secretary to the Governor, was elected permanent Secretary to the Commission without compensation other than that with his position as Secretary to the Governor.

The corner stone of the Capitol Building was laid the afternoon of November 16, 1915, in special ceremony. A parade through the principal streets of Oklahoma City to the building site was joined in by members of the Commission and other State officials, members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, members of the National Guard, officials of Oklahoma, and private citizens of the State. The program opened with music by the India Temple Band and the "Appollo Club." Invocation was given by Bishop Francis K. Brooke. The laying of the corner stone was under the supervision of the Masonic Grand Lodge, with M.W. Almer Monroney, Grand Master, officiating. In addition to the addresses by the Governor and Ex-Officio Chairman of the State Capitol Commission and Chief Justice Matthew J. Kane of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, addresses were also given by M. W. Almer E. Monroney and R. W. Woodson E. Norvell. R. W. W. W. Robinson gave the Benediction.

The Sixth State Legislature on March 16, 1917, passed House Resolution No. 46, as follows, the "building having been expeditiously completed":³

"Whereas, this great undertaking has been accomplished without a suspicion or intimation of graft or extravagance;

"Be it Resolved, That we hereby tender on behalf of the people of the State our earnest commendation for their earnest and efficient efforts in building the Capitol, the intelligent care and supervision they have given to this great responsibility, and the value of their services in the discharge of their duty."

² *Ibid.*, XXI (March, 1943), No. 1, p. 35; *ibid.*, V (March, 1928), No. 1, pp. 100-01.

³ *Ibid.*, X (December, 1932), No. 1, p. 613.

The Oklahoma State Capitol is of Classic Greek and Roman architecture, built of white Indiana limestone with a base of pink Oklahoma granite, with approaches of Georgia granite, and floors of Alabama marble and stairways of Vermont marble, fully completed within the limits of the legislative appropriation of \$1,500,000.⁴ After a report by the architects that the James Stewart & Company had completed their contract, the building was accepted by the Capitol Commission in a meeting on November 10, 1917, with all members present, Governor R. L. Williams presiding and the Minutes of the meeting attested by A. N. Leecraft, Secretary.

The transcript record of the Proceedings of the State Capitol Commission shows that the last meeting was held on November 22, 1918, with all the original members present, except Patrick J. Goulding, deceased, his successor as member, E. K. Gaylord having been duly appointed being present, and R. L. Williams, Governor and Chairman presiding.⁵ The Minutes were attested by A. N. Leecraft, Secretary.

KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The following historical correction for *The Chronicles*, summer number 1944 (Vol. XXII, Number 2), has been received addressed to the Editor: "In the summer edition of *The Chronicles*, in the article on Sir William Johnson, Baronet (page 174), Johnson is said to have visited England the year prior to his death in 1774. But Sir William Johnson, who came to America in 1737 never again saw his homeland.—W. N. P. Dailey, Author."

TOM DORAN, MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE STRIP COW PUNCHERS'
ASSOCIATION

The Historical Society museum has on display a large buffalo hide bearing the names of the members of the Cherokee Strip Cow Punchers Association organized September 21, 1920, and dedicated to all those identified with the cattle industry in the Cherokee Strip from 1874 to 1893 which marked the year of the opening of the Strip to homestead settlement. In carrying on the custom of placing a gold star on the buffalo skin beside the names of those members who are passing away through the years, a gold star is due by the name of Tom Doran as he was best known to his old friends in Oklahoma.

Thomas M. Doran was born September 25, 1859, in Morris, Illinois. As a lad of thirteen years, he came west to live with his cousin, Sam Maher, a lawyer and banker in Great Bend, Kansas, also in-

⁴ *Oklahoma Emblems and Historic Places* compiled by the Oklahoma Library Commission 1937, Mrs. J. R. Dale, Secretary, and Dee Paradis Jackson, Traveling Library; *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, XXI (March, 1943), No. 1, p. 34.

⁵ *Ibid.*, X (December, 1932), No. 1, pp. 612-14.

terested in the cattle business. It was here that the boy began his life as a cowboy. He later made his home at Medicine Lodge, Kansas, and was one of the organizers of The Comanche Pool, associated with Charlie Colcord, and others in this early day venture in the cattle business of Kansas and Indian Territory. At the time of the opening of the Cherokee Strip, he proved up a claim near Woodward, Oklahoma Territory, and had a cattle ranch about twenty miles south of the town. He was elected and served as County Clerk of Woodward County at one time. In 1908, he moved to New Mexico where he engaged in the hotel business at different times in Clovis, Las Vegas, and Santa Fe where he was making his home at the time of his death at the age of 84 years, June 13, 1944. He is survived by his wife and a son, Paul, engaged in the oil business in Texas. His two grandsons are serving in the armed forces: Lt. Thomas S. Doran, under the command of General Clark, in Italy; and Lt. Richard P. Doran, under the command of General Stilwell in India.

The following article appeared in a Medicine Lodge, Kansas, newspaper, *The Barber County Index* for June 29, 1944:

"Tom Doran, who before his death recently, was probably the last remaining member of the posse that captured the men who robbed the Medicine Lodge bank just 50 years ago, was buried in Medicine Lodge, last week. His ashes were brought here from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and placed in the family lot in Highland cemetery.

"The death of Doran recalls again an event in Medicine Lodge which in the annals of this town is comparable to the discovery of America by Columbus or the Revolutionary or the Civil War in the history of the United States. On Wednesday, April 30, 1884, four men from the neighboring city of Caldwell, two of them city officials, rode into town, shot and killed the cashier and president of the bank, robbed the bank and left in a hurry. They were followed by a posse of determined men and the bandits were captured and hung to an elm tree at the eastern edge of town. Old timers say that Doran was the last survivor of that famous posse who trapped the bandits and murderers in a canyon southwest of Medicine Lodge. The men were then brought to town and hanged that evening when a crowd of armed men overpowered the sheriff and posse.

"In addition to Doran, the members of the posse were Alex R. McKinney, Barney O'Connor, Vernon Lytle, C. G. Talliaferro, Geo. Friedley, Roll Clark, John Flemming, Nate Priest, Wayne McKinney, Leed Bradley, Howard Martin, and others."

JOHN JAMES ABERT, COLONEL U. S. TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS, 1838

One of the most valuable original documents in the Oklahoma Historical Society is the patent which was issued by the United States to the Choctaw Nation over a century ago, confirming the property rights of the people of this nation to all the country now included in Southern Oklahoma, under the terms of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, in Mississippi, on September 27, 1830. The

patent bears the signatures of John Tyler, President of the United States; Daniel Webster, Secretary of State; John C. Spencer, Secretary of War; T. Hartley Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs; William J. Williamson, as Recorder of the General Land Office; and the marginal signature of John J. Abert, Colonel U. S. Topographical Engineers. The document was designed and executed with pen and ink, water color, and gold leaf on parchment in the office of Colonel Abert, the pen text being a model of its class.

Elsewhere in this number of *The Chronicles* appears a review of the book *Guadal P'a*, the Journal of Lieutenant J. W. Abert, from Bent's Fort to St. Louis in 1845, an interesting and important contribution in the history of explorations in the Southwest. Lieutenant Abert was the son of Colonel John James Abert. Like his father the son carried on the military tradition of his family in America and graduated from the Military Academy at West Point, class of 1838. This was the same year that the father was commissioned colonel in the Corps of Topographical Engineers, the son being transferred from the Infantry to the Topographical Engineers in 1843, the year after the execution of the Choctaw patent. Talented in drawing, he made an outstanding record in this work while a student at West Point, which undoubtedly influenced his transfer from the Infantry service. This leads one to wonder if Lieutenant Abert may have had a part in the actual work of designing and executing the Choctaw patent itself. In 1848, he was returned on assignment to the Academy and served as Assistant Professor of Drawing there for two years, a circumstance pointed out by Dr. H. Bailey Carroll, Editor, in his introduction to the book *Guadal P'a*. Doctor Carroll further stated in his introduction of this volume (pp. 3-4):

"The American branch of the Abert family originated with one John Abert who, during the war of the Revolution, came to America from France as a part of the force of Comte de Rochambeau, who, in 1780, landed at Newport, Rhode Island. In 1781, Rochambeau marched to the neighborhood of New York, effected a junction with Washington, and moved rapidly southward with him upon Cornwallis at Yorktown. Thus, was the grandfather of J. W. Abert present at a decisive moment in the nation's history."

AMERICAN INDIAN EXPOSITION, ANADARKO, 1944

New features marked the American Indian Exposition at Anadarko this year, an annual all Indian event that has been making history in Oklahoma for thirteen years. This year most of the young Indians were serving their native country in the war overseas.

Through the courtesy of the Office of Navy Public Relations, Oklahoma City, the official U. S. Navy photograph appearing in this number of *The Chronicles* on the opposite page 358 was received by the Editorial Department, together with the following note explaining the photograph:

"It was a great day for two proud American parents when their WAVE daughters came home in time to celebrate with them the American Indian Exposition at Anadarko, Oklahoma. It is the Beaver family, all Delaware-Shawnee Indians. The station photographer from the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Norman, Okla., caught them all together against this teepee background on the Exposition Pageant grounds. They are, left to right: Mrs. Beaver, their mother; Delores, S2c; Jones Beaver, father; and Beulah, S2c. Their little brother Roger, is sporting a new hat and an all-day sucker. The WAVES, who are stationed at the Naval Air Station, Norman, are being congratulated by one of the dancers in the pageant, Jack Hokeah, Klowa. The Beaver family lives at Binger, Okla."

The four-day exposition at Anadarko this year (August 16-19), with visiting representatives from thirty-two Indian tribes in Oklahoma and other Indian tribes in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, presented as an outstanding program, the "Pageant of Great Gifts," depicting contributions to American culture and civilization made by the American Indians.

OKLAHOMA WAR MEMORIAL RECORDS

The Editorial Department wishes to express appreciation and make acknowledgements to the following friends of the Historical Society for their assistance in securing data for the records of the Oklahoma War Memorial—World War II: Glenn W. Nolle, Department Service Officer, American Legion of Oklahoma, Historical Building, Oklahoma City; Office Navy Public Relations (by Ruth M. Tjaden, Lieutenant-jg, USNR), Federal Building, Oklahoma City; Mrs. G. Harland Davis, Dwight Indian Training School, Vian (Rt. 2), Oklahoma; Norah L. Francis, Librarian, Carnegie, Oklahoma; Mrs. Dee Paradis Jackson, Oklahoma Library Commission, State Capitol, Oklahoma City; Dr. Fred S. Clinton, 230 Woodward Blvd., Tulsa 5, Oklahoma; Mrs. E. C. Gleason, Hobart, Oklahoma; Mrs. E. W. Meek, Ponca City, Oklahoma; Mrs. E. U. Sloan and the American Legion Post, Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Major Charles D. Kellar, Operations Officer, Adjutant General's Office, State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.