NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Pryor's Birthday Celebration for W. A. Graham, Oklahoma's Centenarian Banker.

Pryor had a big birthday celebration on May 18, 1951, for W. A. Graham, President of the First National Bank of Pryor, who was one hundred years old on that day. This event with photographs of Mr. Graham was given two full pages in Life magazine for June 4, 1951, under the heading of "The World's Oldest Millionaire Becomes a Centenarian."

A "Birthday Anniversary" pamphlet with illustrations, compiled and published for the occasion by Mr. Thomas H. Harrison, Member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society, from Pryor, dedicates its pages to "W. A. Graham—a Man of Service," and presents a short story of this pioneer citizen whose generous gifts and co-operation have meant much in making Pryor a "clean, substantial and growing community."

William Alexander Graham, born May 18, 1851 near Adairsville, Georgia, came to the town of Adair, in the Cherokee Nation, on March 25, 1884. He soon went into the cattle business, in partnership with John C. Hogan, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. In 1892, they purchased a store at Pryor, which grew into an extensive business as the W. A. Graham Company, and developed a grain company, elevators, lumber yards, banks and wide mercantile interests. Beginning in 1892, Mr. Graham organized banks in Vinita, Claremore, Miami, Eufaula, Muskogee, and in 1900, organized the First National Bank at Pryor, of which he has remained the President and principal stockholder. As a public benefactor, his generous gifts have made possible the completion of many city projects, including miles of sidewalks, streets and good roads. He built and presented as a gift to the City of Pryor, the Graham Community Building that houses the city offices, fire department, public library and auditorium. His most recent donation to the City was the sum of $280,000 for the construction of the new electrical distribution system. Mr. Graham at the age of one hundred years is a member of the Library Board, and is actively interested in his many properties in Pryor and in Mayes County.

Mr. Harrison's pamphlet is an interesting contribution as an illustration of Oklahoma's development and progress, for in addition to the biographical notes on W. A. Graham, the compiler gives a brief history of Pryor and information about Mayes County.

M.H.W.
The Capitol Hill Beacon for April 22, 1951, published some interesting history on the early post offices in Oklahoma City, in a feature story written by Clyde Duckwell, Jr., largely from notes supplied by Mrs. Louise Cook who is in charge of the Newspaper Files in the Historical Society. However, the statement in the second paragraph of Mr. Duckwell's story that the first post office in Oklahoma City "was situated in the little old house called the Arbeka Hotel" needs some clarification to "keep the records straight." On authority of Mr. Claude Hensley, of Oklahoma City, who has first hand information on the subject, Samuel H. Radebaugh was appointed the first Postmaster at Oklahoma Station in 1887 when through mail service was established on the Santa Fe Railroad. Mr. Radebaugh's residence was the post office for Oklahoma Station. The name was changed to "Oklahoma" on December 18, 1888, and soon afterward James McGranahan became postmaster, his "Arbeka Hotel" serving as the post office distributing point for the small amount of mail arriving. At 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 21, 1889, George A. Beidler became postmaster. McGranahan wanted to relieve the position before this but Beidler would not take charge since he was afraid a rain would come up and soak the large amount of mail and government papers that had been recently coming in over the railroad. Besides he needed time to get the load sorted and ready for distribution. Sunday, the legal holiday, was set for this. Monday, April 22, 1889, the day of the Opening of the Unassigned Lands ("Old Oklahoma") in the Indian Territory, Beidler began distributing the mail in a small, makeshift stockade hut near the Santa Fe Railroad at "Oklahoma," now Oklahoma City. The photo of Beidler's stockade post office has often been printed as Oklahoma City's first post office, which it was if one counts from the time of the Opening of "Old Oklahoma" by the Run of 1889.

Clyde Duckwell's feature story from the Capitol Hill Beacon follows:

Oklahoma City and Capitol Hill's post offices have some very interesting background as to growth of both staff and serving ability to the public.

An office was first established in 1887 and was known as just plain Oklahoma instead of Oklahoma City as it is known now and as we of the younger generation have always known it. The first postmaster was S. H. Radenbaugh, who lived at Harrah. The office itself was situated in the little old house called the Arbeka hotel. It was west of what is now the

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Santa Fe station and north of California avenue, on a lot which, when
the locality was platted, faced Santa Fe street and California avenue.

The only business of the office at that time was the forwarding of
mail matter to military stations. As a whole the building consisted of
two small houses, one constructed of wood, the other a plain "stake
house," with the logs set up and down, and in which the forwarding agent.
Benjamin Miller, lived. This station also was used to receive freight
from the Santa Fe railway for Fort Reno.

The postmaster, Radenbaugh, maintained a business in connection with
his official capacity by furnishing general supplies to people who came to
visit the county with the intention of settling when it was opened. At the
time there was a constant stream of such people flowing in and out of
the country. They could not settle, however, for the law at that time
forbade it, as the country had not formally been opened.

Now, comes the establishment of the first real postoffice. On April 22,
1889, George W. Biedler was appointed postmaster. He arranged a stockade
building on land at the corner of Main and Santa Fe streets, and his first
office force consisted of himself, his wife, daughter and small son. The
place was a poor structure and afforded but little shelter from the cold
of winter and the heat of summer. A change soon was made, to a two-
story frame house nearby. In those days it was considered a magnificent
house, although it is doubtful now if it would be used for a barn.

With the rapid growth of population that followed soon the postmaster
became overwhelmed with business and had soon to appoint assistants,
so the new force comprised three men, John Flattery, James McAdams and
the postmaster.

In this early period there was no delivery by carriers and the only
way of distributing mail was to stand on a barrel, box or anything handy,
calling out names to which waiting persons answered by stepping forward
and receiving the letters. Fixtures such as windows, mail boxes and the
like were unknown, and many disputes arose.

While officially in the fourth class this Oklahoma City postoffice was
in reality doing the business of second class, the receipts, remarkable in
those days, reached about $10,000 a year. Several attempts to rob the
postoffice were made but were unsuccessful.

The office was moved about eight months after its establishment to a
building located about 119 N. Broadway where the Egbert Hotel now
stands. This building occupied a space of 40 by 65 feet. During the next
20 years, the office was moved to quarters on Robinson where the Liberty
Theatre now stands; next to Harvey where the Midwest Theatre is; then
to Southwest corner of Main and Hudson, and in 1912 to 3rd and Robinson,
the present location.

While the amount of mail matter received had increased it was not
until 1893 that a carrier service was established. This began with three
men and one assistant. The latter, C. A. Richardson, was still a member
of the staff in 1910.

February 5, 1892: "Because of the phenoninal increase in business at
the Oklahoma City postoffice there will be a free delivery system in Okla-
howa City within the year. Under a recent law of congress the postmaster
general is empowered to establish the free delivery system in all cities
whose postoffices do an annual business of 10,000 and over, and Oklahoma

1 The "89ers of Oklahoma City marked this site with a memorial plaque and
inscription, in 1939 (See "Oklahoma City's Historical Markers" in this issue). —Ed.
City will come under that head and have several hundred dollars to spare, if the business done during February and March is even as good as it was last year. The year began April 1, 1891 and ends April 1, 1892, and the system will be established as soon thereafter as the department can arrange it."

April 7, 1895: "The business of the Oklahoma City Postoffice for the four quarters ending March 31 has reached $14,321.99, an increase of almost $2,000 over any previous year. There has been paid out in money orders, $38,920.06; 4,747 letters registered and dispatched; 3,928 registered letters received and 1,190 in transit."

May 11, 1899: "The Oklahoma City postoffice produced nearly one-sixth of all the revenue in Oklahoma Territory, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898. Guthrie is second in point of revenue but first in cost of maintenance."

Elmer E. Brown was the postmaster when the present Federal building was contracted for. This building cost $250,000 and the site cost $30,000. The erection was completed in 1912 and was occupied by the Post Office in November of that year. Within two years, the building was too small for the greatly increased postal business and in 1913 the office was enlarged.

Secret passages and lookouts in the new postoffice building (1912) insured every protection for Oklahoma City's mail. This feature of the splendid new structure at the corner of Third street and Robinson avenue was given just as much attention as the working room or any other department of the federal building.

The new postoffice was started in March, 1910, by the M. J. Gill Construction company of Ardmore. This company carried it to about the second floor and then the government abrogated the contract. The sureties commenced work Sept. 15, 1911, and had everything ready for the concrete roof when the big freeze came and caused the work to stop.

By 1928, the postoffice had again outgrown its quarters and a second extension to the building was authorized by Congress. The extension was occupied in 1932. The building as it now stands is 400 feet long by 140 feet wide; a part of the building is nine stories high. The present building is again too crowded and Congress has authorized a new post office building at Oklahoma City, but due to the present emergency and defense program, plans have been postponed for the present.

The total cost of the present building was $1,500,000 and the site cost $159,000. In addition to the Main Postoffice, there are 10 classified stations and branches located in various sections of the city for the convenience of patrons and also 28 contract stations and branches located in various stores and business establishments.

From an original force of the postmaster and his family in 1889, the personnel necessary to conduct the business of the Oklahoma City postoffice at the present time consists of 845 employees. The receipts of $5,480.20 in 1889 have grown to $4,448,982.35 in 1950. There are approximately 300,000 letters mailed each day. About 1,000 letters are registered each day and 1,300 special delivery articles are delivered daily, the special delivery messengers traveling 700 miles.

Our city office serves 325,000 patrons over an area of 285 square miles through their city, mounted and rural carriers, the carriers traveling 3700 miles per day.

Postmasters who have served the Oklahoma City office include the following the order named: Radenbaugh; James McGranahan; George W.
Pierce was Post Office Inspector in charge of the Post Office during the vacancy of the postmaster.

H. D. Alexander was the postmaster when the post office in Capitol Hill was called or known as Capitol Hill, Oklahoma. The office was located at the northwest corner of South Robinson and 25th street or "C" street. The building located there now is where the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce offices are located.

Capitol Hill, Oklahoma was an independent Post Office until November 1, 1911 when it became a classified station of the Oklahoma City Post Office. The first superintendent was John F. Kraemer. Three city carrier routes were established at that time. The receipts for the calendar year 1911 were approximately $1,700.00.

The office was moved to the south side of 25th Street between Robinson and Broadway and later moved to the west side of Robinson between 25th and 26th streets and then to 113 SW 25 where it has been located for ten years.

Edgar Cook was made superintendent in 1912; Grover Skaggs, now retired and residing at 50th and S. Santa Fe, was made superintendent in 1916; F. A. O'Brien was appointed in 1945 and is the present superintendent. He resides at 3128 Drexel Court. The assistant superintendent is H. C. Blakely, 1517 N. Kentucky.

There are employed at the Capitol Hill Station in addition to the superintendent and assistant superintendent, 34 carriers, 3 rural carriers and 10 clerks with additional auxiliary clerks and carriers to keep up service when the mails are heavy.

The receipts for 1950 amounted to $136,549.11. There are approximately 20,000 letters mailed daily at the Capitol Hill Station and some 27,500 letters are delivered daily to approximately 75,000 people in an area of 43 square miles.

Bids are now being taken for new quarters for the Capitol Hill Station where there will be more room for the fast growing station to take care of the vast expansion going on in the Capitol Hill district at the present time.

—Clyde Duckwell, Jr.

DATA FROM THE U. S. POST OFFICE RECORDS:
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

This office was established under the name "Oklahoma Station" December 30, 1887, with Samuel H. Radebaugh as postmaster. The name of the office was changed to "Oklahoma" and Mr. Radebaugh reappointed postmaster December 18, 1888.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSTMASTERS</th>
<th>DATES APPOINTED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James McGranahan</td>
<td>February 4, 1889</td>
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<tr>
<td>George A. Beidler</td>
<td>March 18, 1889</td>
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<tr>
<td>John A. Flattery</td>
<td>March 25, 1894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Murphy</td>
<td>July 7, 1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elmer E. Brown</td>
<td>January 23, 1903</td>
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</table>
The name of the office known as "Oklahoma" was changed to "Oklahoma City" July 1, 1923.

Elma Eylar (Acting) September 1, 1923
William G. Johnston January 16, 1924
Frank L. Pierce (Post Office Inspector—Acting) March 28, 1936
Joseph S. Morris March 10, 1937

The following statement was made by James McGranahan to Col. Wilbur S. Nye, author of Carbine and Lance, and Claude E. Hensley:

Postmaster James McGranahan turned his office over to his successor George A. Beidler at 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning April 21, 1889.

Mr. McGranahan also stated that mail destined for Silver City, Darlington, Fort Reno, Cantonment, Camp Supply, Anadarko, Fort Sill passed through this office (pouch mail to these points).

There was daily stage coach traffic between Oklahoma and Fort Reno and Darlington. A stage coach ran from Fort Reno to Cantonment on to Camp Supply. Another stage route was from Fort Reno south to the Wichita Agency (Anadarko) and Fort Sill.

—M. H. W.

Report on Conditions Among the Fullblood Indian Groups of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma

Many volumes have been written on the remarkable history and advancement of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole peoples, known in Oklahoma as the Five Civilized Tribes. Most of them were already well adjusted to the best in American civilization when Oklahoma became a State in 1907. The professions, business circles and official life in this State count many leading citizens who are descendants of these great Indian tribes. Yet the question is often asked, "What are the conditions in which some of the fullblood Indian groups of these tribes live today?"

Doctor Angie Debo, of Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, has made another contribution in her study of the Indians in The Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, "a Report on Social and Economic Conditions," published in pamphlet form in April, 1951, by The Indian Rights Association, 130 S. Juniper Street, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania (Price 25 cents per copy). Doctor Debo states in the Preface that her book And Still the Waters Run (Princeton, 1940) closed with a question, "Could the lost fullbloods of the Five Tribes be Saved?" This question had remained in her mind until she made her recent survey in Oklahoma (1948), and it was a great personal satisfaction to her to find the answer. The chapter headings in her pamphlet give the subjects covered in the survey, which include "Poor Indians on Poor Land," "The Farm Loan Policy in the Ozarks," "Farm Loans in Other Areas," "Land Purchases for

In Chapter X, the author gives a summary of her findings and recommendations for the backward Indian groups in Eastern Oklahoma, leading out with these statements: "The fullblood settlements present a picture of appalling social and economic degradation, relieved only in spots by the rehabilitation program. But it has been clearly demonstrated that the Indians do respond to agricultural opportunities, that they do benefit by educational training."

Her recommendations to fit the long-range objectives in any program adopted for underprivileged Indians, are "an adequate agriculture for those who stay on the farm" and "social and economic self sufficiency for those who enter other fields of employment." She points out the specific means to attain these ends: (1), stop, loss of land; (2), increase number of extension workers—farm management supervisors and home economists; (3), enlarge the extension service and increase the revolving loan fund; (4), extend spinning and weaving project; (5), authorize Indian Agency rather than county courts to supervise collections of individual Indian money; (6), promote and change Indian Agency services in protecting Indian property, to that of training Indians; (7), establish better health system; (8), formulate by special surveys adequate educational policies; (9), make the churches aware of the superficiality of their present efforts among Indians.

Press reports of Miss Debo's published survey have had many comments among the Indian people of Oklahoma. An interesting letter addressed to the Area Director, W. O. Roberts, of the U. S. Indian Office at Muskogee, by J. Brookes Wright of McAlester, analyzes Miss Debo's report from the viewpoint of a Choctaw citizen who has lived all his life in Eastern Oklahoma, and served in the U. S. Indian service in Oklahoma for a number of years. Mr. Wright is appreciative and friendly to Miss Debo's survey but does not always agree with her report on some of the findings. A copy of Mr. Wright's letter was received by the Editorial Department of the Historical Society, and is here presented for both its historical and contemporary value to the readers of The Chronicles:

Mr. W. O. Roberts
Area Director
Muskogee Area Office
U. S. Indian Service
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Recently newspapers in Oklahoma carried a news item in which they quoted excerpts from the report of Miss Angie Debo made for the Indian
Rights Association and entitled “Social and Economic Conditions of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma.” The newspaper item was headed “Indians’ Lot is Bemoaned” and carried the stamp of the Associated Press. The article also stated that this report was released recently by your office and “Paints a sordid picture of living conditions among tribesmen.” The item further stated that “Most Oklahoma Indians live in appalling poverty amid disease, crime and general moral delinquency as a report to the Indian Rights Association discloses.”

Being a member of the Choctaw Tribe, one of the Five Civilized Tribes under consideration, having served as U. S. Field Clerk (now called District Agent) under your office for 16 years and having spent over 70 years in association with these tribes, the writer believes it his duty to challenge these broad and misleading statements.

Knowing that some press reporters, quite frequently, like to play up the sordid side of an event thinking that it makes for popular reading, it was decided to write you for more information before making comment. Too, having known something of the Indian Rights Association and having a deep regard for the work they are undertaking for the betterment of the Indians it was thought best to get their report.

In reply to my letter to you with regard to the matter, you gave me the address of the Indian Rights Association and advised me to write for a copy of the report. This was done and a copy of the report received.

In general the report is fair, barring some discrepancies. Conditions are not as discouraging as one is lead to believe from reading the newspaper excerpts, but it is already apparent that more people have read the newspaper article than have read the full report.

It seems that Miss Debo is unfortunate in her use of English words and expressions and thus conveys the wrong impressions, in many cases, to the casual reader and these are in the majority. She is also inclined to generalities. A reader might be led to believe that all Indians are placed in the same category.

In speaking of Indians the writer refers to the Five Civilized Tribes. He is a Choctaw and has spent his life among the Choctaws and Chickasaws. He worked among the Creeks and Seminoles for a short period. As for the Cherokees, the writer has never had too much contact with them as a tribe, but most writers of fact and fiction have given them more publicity than the other tribes. This, no doubt, is due to the fact that the Cherokees inhabited the country near the Eastern seaboard and came in contact with the whites and began amalgamation probably 50 or 100 years before the other tribes. However, the writer did visit and spend several days during the depression in one of the Government camps located in the timbered hills in the Cherokee Nation and he learned first hand the condition of some of those people. It was much worse than he had experienced elsewhere.

We have Indians who have no more than 1/8th Indian blood who are as proud of their Indian blood as a fullblood. Therefore, in writing of the Indians of the Five Tribes, Miss Debo should take note of those ranging in position from Justice of the Peace to U. S. Congressmen, the eminent lawyers, doctors, surgeons, ministers of the Gospel, artists, merchants, men of wealth, etc., and classify them.

It is my experience that tribes, nations and peoples have their quota of ne'er-do-wells and improvidents, as witness relief, not only in the United States but over most of the world. Then among the fullbloods there are some who prefer to hold on to tribal customs and traditions rather than to progress with the times. During the depression the word—under privi-
The writer was a young man when the Dawes Commission began to treat with the Choctaws in regard to allotment. He sat in on one of the first meetings held on the matter in Atoka. It seemed that the fullbloods and those of predominant Indian blood were satisfied with their form of government and did not favor allotment. One of the U. S. Commissioners made a speech and told the Choctaws that they would have to deal with the government or else. The Choctaws were told that they must give up their way of life and follow the white man's way. Later on some of them did and to their sorrow for they followed the wrong way. One fine old Chickasaw, whom I knew, an honorable man and a leader among his people had a cattle and horse ranch. He was provident and had saved his money to where he did lend another fullblood, a ranchman, $5,000.00 in gold without so much as a note or mortgage. In those days, before allotment, it was common parlance that an Indian's word was as good as his bond. In later years and since allotment the grandson of this man, no doubt, thought it easy to get money by forgery. He paid the penalty by going to the penitentiary. Many instances of Indians learning the white man's way—the wrong way—could be cited. In the days of Choctaw courts a man would be sentenced to be shot—the legal method of execution—then he would be allowed to go home and arrange his affairs. He would voluntarily return to be shot on the day appointed. Things have changed and now the government keeps the doomed under lock and key until the day of execution.

The writer attended day subscription school in the elementary grades, also took a turn at an Indian Academy. Afterwards he attended school in Texas and Tennessee preparing for college. He then attended a University within easy reach of Philadelphia and New York City. The object of this diversity of locations was to get a cross-section of the social and economic life as it existed in the East and South as well as the West. Therefore, in taking exceptions to certain statements in Miss Debo's report, the writer feels that he is a competent witness by reason of education, observation and experience. His experience and observation lead him to believe that no particular race of people is in the position where the "Pot can call the kettle black" so far as social and moral conditions exist.

The writer believes Miss Debo made a fairly good report with some generalities excluded and some statements, which are misleading. She should have classified the Indians about whom she is writing.

The Indian is a human being and subject to the frailties of all mankind. He is no super-race. He is not endowed from on high with super talents. However, one thing must be taken into consideration which is, the fullblood Indian is comparatively a new-comer into the white man's civilization and, to many, this is more or less confusing.

There are Indians, more especially fullbloods, living in the backwoods and hill country who are honest, upright and moral who do not want to adopt the white man's way in its entirety.

We have ne'er-do-wells and the improvidents and no doubt some living in houses that leak when it rains but to those of us who have lived in the pioneer days of this country, that is not surprising. This condition was not confined to Indians but was common among whites as well. Yet out of such conditions have arisen some who have been leaders of men.

It seems that the word "slum" is hardly appropriate in describing the poor conditions existing in the country. No doubt where poverty and squalor exist moral conditions are more than apt to be bad. But all full-
bloobs or others of less degree who live in the backwoods or hill country are not poverty stricken nor live in squalor.

When the writer entered the U. S. Indian Service many years ago he thought he noted the deterioration of the morale of the restricted Indian, due to the paternalism of the U. S. government since allotment, and his ambition was to restore, as much as he could, that individualism and independence as he knew it among the Choctaws prior to allotment. He thought he was making some progress when along came the depression of the 1930's and with it came representatives from the Indian Office in Washington and Red Cross Workers from St. Louis bent on saving the "Poor Indian" from starvation. If any of the Indians in my district which comprised most of the North half of the Old Choctaw Nation, starved to death I never learned of it and I spent most of my time in the field. Relief did play havoc with what little progress that had been made to inculcate independence. My allottees received the relief offered them by the government but were no different from their white neighbors except that they were probably not as aggressive in their demands. My allottees who received any land rentals through your office kept, as a general thing, a small balance in your office for emergencies during that time.

Miss Debo gave some examples of what your office was doing in the way of rehabilitation and it was gratifying to note that others, having similar ideas to those the writer outlined in his annual reports to your office several years ago, were able to put their ideas into practice. In this matter highly paid personnel is not so much needed as good, substantial personnel who will take an interest in their work.

The writer can't quite agree with Miss Debo in the abolition of the Probate Attorney division.

Indians are not naturally farmers, nor has their background been conducive to agriculture as a vocation. They (speaking of the 5 Tribes) have always raised enough food for sustenance but not for barter nor sale. They are more inclined to be stockmen and the more provident among the Choctaws and Chickasaws always had cattle, horses and hogs. There were some mixed bloods who had plantations and slaves prior to the Civil War but outside of these a 40 acre farm was quite large in the 80's and early 90's when the writer, as a cowboy, rode the range after cattle. At about that time there was one Choctaw, untutored in the "white man's book-learning" who had accumulated a ranch and estate, through his own efforts, estimated to be worth a half a million dollars.

The writer takes exception to the statement of Miss Debo in Chapter 7, page 24, where she states "Disease, drunkenness, crime and general moral delinquency exist to an appalling extent in the fullblood settlements." This is a reckless statement and general in extent, applying to all Five Tribes. During my time in office this was not applicable to my district and I do not believe it applicable to other districts. I refute this statement.

In paragraph 4 pages 25 and 26, Miss Debo draws a conclusion on the illegitimacy of child-birth among the Tribes which can't be substantiated. Illegitimacy is not any more a matter of concern in one race of people than in another.

The writer can't agree with Miss Debo that church grounds have become the home of moral laxity and places of ill-repute. There might be some isolated cases where this is true and if such be the case, then those who know it should bring it to the attention of the church authorities who should clear up the situation and no doubt will.

Miss Debo states that she was assisted in her work by employees in the Indian Service, and these are under your jurisdiction, but I feel quite
sure, any conclusions reached by her in her report, that might be derogatory to the Indians under your jurisdiction, were not authorized by them.

Respectfully,

J. B. Wright.

cc Miss Angie Debo
cc Indian Rights Association

—M.H.W.

NEW ASSOCIATION TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

The following notice has been received from Carl Bode, of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, who is the Chairman of the Steering Committee for a new organization to encourage study of American civilization:

AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Washington

To make plans for encouraging the study of American civilization, the sponsoring committee of the new American Studies Association held its first meeting on March 22 in the Woodrow Wilson Room of the Library of Congress. The committee adopted a constitution stating the most important ways in which the Association hopes to achieve its general aim. They are by "the improvement of communication across those disciplines which deal with phases of American civilization" and by "the fostering of inter-disciplinary research and of courses and programs in American Civilization."

The committee, which represented half a dozen institutions, also outlined the kinds of meetings and publications in prospect. The meetings will be mainly in conjunction with regional and professional societies. Plans for the publication of a newsletter by the Rutgers University Press were discussed. In addition, Professor Robert E. Spiller of the English Department of the University of Pennsylvania, who is chairman of the editorial board of the American Quarterly, spoke about the future of the recently founded American Civilization Journal; and the committee agreed on the substantial advantages which would be gained both by the Association and by the Quarterly through an official connection. This would mean, if arrangements work out, that the Association could have the benefit of a learned journal as well as a newsletter.

Members of the inter-disciplinary sponsoring committee who attended the all-day session were: Professor Charles Barker of the History Department of Johns Hopkins; Professor Charles Baylis of the Philosophy Department at the University of Maryland; Professor Walter Bezanson of the American Civilization program at Rutgers; Professor Merle Curti of the History Department at the University of Wisconsin; Professor N. B. Fagin of the English and Drama Departments at Johns Hopkins; Professor Montgomery Gambrill of the History Department at Johns Hopkins; Professor Wesley Gewehr of the History Department at the University of Maryland; Dr. David Mearns, Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress, in his capacity as an American historian; Professor H. S. Merrill of the History Department at the University of Maryland; Mr. Harold N. Munger, Jr., director of the Rutgers University Press; Professor Spiller, Mr. Edward Waters, Assistant Chief of the Music Division of the Library of Congress, fessor Carl Bode of the English Department and American Civilization program at the University of Maryland, who chaired the meeting and was and editor of the Journal of the American Musicological Society; and Pro-
also elected head of the five-man steering committee which will operate during the next year until the society is fully established.

The enlarged sponsoring committee elected three additional members who were unable to be present at the Washington meeting. They are: Professor Dorothy Thomas of the Sociology Department at the University of Pennsylvania; Professor Oliver Larkin of the Art Department at Smith College; and Professor Robert L. Shurter of the Humanistic-Social Division of Case Institute. The current committee is taking over the direction of the American Civilization Conference, which was initiated at the Modern Language Association convention in New York last December, and includes the original members of the Conference's sponsoring committee.

According to the constitution now adopted, membership in the American Studies Association will be open to individuals, organizations, and institutions. Professor Bode said that he would be interested in hearing from anyone who wished to be put on the Association's mailing list and who might want to help in the establishing of the society.

DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER "CAMP LEAVENWORTH,"
AT KINGSTON

In the two-year development of the placing of markers at historical spots found wholly acceptable and worthy, was one erected near Kingston, Marshall County, Oklahoma.

The location of this "Camp Leavenworth" marker is on U.S. Highway #70 at Kingston. The following is the inscription on the marker:

"Camp Leavenworth (about 2 mi. South) Named for Gen. Henry Leavenworth who died near here July 21, 1834 while enroute from Ft. Gibson to Wichita Village in western Oklahoma for a peace conference with the Plains Indians. The expedition continued under Col. Henry Dodge, assisted by many notable officers and civilians including Lt. Jefferson Davis and George Catlin, the artist of Indian life."

Upon a very pleasant and profitable visit to the Society by Superintendent George S. Henry of the Kingston Public Schools, he invited Secretary Dr. Charles Evans to come to Kingston on May 25th and address his Senior class in Commencement. Arrangements were made at the same time for Secretary Evans to present to the citizens of Kingston and of Marshall County the Camp Leavenworth marker.

Superintendent Henry planned and took the leadership of assembling the citizens and students of Kingston in the high school auditorium on Thursday, May 24th at 2:00 P.M. for the dedication ceremonies of the marker. The auditorium was crowded and the Kingston High School band delighted all with good music.

Superintendent Henry introduced Dr. Evans and stated the lofty purpose of the occasion. He promised that the public school
system of Kingston would faithfully guard this marker at the edge of Kingston, although the immediate site of Camp Leavenworth was two miles south of the city and he said that the parkway around the marker would be well developed through the years.

Dr. Evans then presented to the schools and the city the plaque and told of the action of General Henry Leavenworth that ultimately brought peace between the Osage Indians in the Northeast and the Southwest Plains Indians of the Oklahoma region. He brought home the practical phase of placing such markers because history has no divisions save that set up by man. General Leavenworth and his men were just as much benefactors of Kingston, of Marshall County, and of all Oklahoma as the first and last Governors of Oklahoma. Without the Leavenworth's, the Dodge's, Jefferson Davis and George Catlin, there would have been no Kingston—no Commonwealth of Oklahoma. "So let us be careful", said he, "and let us guard with precious care such reminders as these markers set up over the State of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Historical Society, costing this State more than $10,000 and a long and faithful service of the Society and the Highway Commission."

The High School Principal in a few very pointed words accepted the plaque and the ceremonies closed with the music of the National Anthem given by the Kingston High School band.

—C.E.

DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER "BLACK BEAVER,"
AT ANADARKO

The City of Anadarko, when notified that the Oklahoma Historical Society had honored it by placing within its confines a historical marker dedicated to "Black Beaver," the remarkable Indian scout and faithful friend of the United States Army and early pioneers in their entrance into Southwestern Oklahoma, began to develop a splendid dedication program.

For many years, Judge C. Ross Hume of Anadarko has been the outstanding historian of not only Caddo County, but of all the Southwest region of Oklahoma. He has contributed through many years exhaustive articles to state papers and The Chronicles of Oklahoma. So, Anadarko turned to him to develop a proper program which was held on April 10, 1951.

The nature and dignity of the ceremony can be given no better than to quote from The Anadarko News, as follows:

"The memory of Black Beaver, famed Delaware Indian scout whose grave is near here, was honored Tuesday afternoon in a ceremony at the Methvin Memorial church and unveiling of an historical marker at the eastern US 62 entrance into Anadarko.

"The marker, one of four in Caddo County and one of 100 in Oklahoma authorized by the Oklahoma legislature, was formally dedicated by Dr.
Charles Evans, director-manager of the Oklahoma historical society. Unveiling of the marker was done by Linda McLane, a great-great-great granddaughter of the Indian scout.

"Participating in the ceremony at the Methvin church were Boy Scouts from the Black Beaver council; members of the Black Beaver chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Norman; and members of the Anadarko Philomathic club and chamber of commerce. Arrangements for the dedication were made by a joint committee from the Philomathic club and chamber of commerce.

"A history of the Black Beaver Scout council, which now embraces eleven western Oklahoma counties and has a membership of 4,445 Scouts in 150 units, was given by Joe Clements, Chickasha, council executive. A troop of Scouts from Carnegie formed the honor guard at the unveiling and taps was sounded by Billy Beebe, Anadarko Scout.

"Dr. Evans, introduced by C. Ross Hume, Anadarko historian, described Black Beaver as "one of the finest of men" and urged Anadarkoans to understand and appreciate the history of this area which he said "is worth more than all your banks." Acceptance by the highway department was made by J. T. Wingo.

"Hume introduced descendants of Black Beaver attending the ceremony and Mrs. M. H. DeFord, president of the Philomathic club introduced members of the Black Beaver chapter of the DAR.

"R. L. Lawrence, member of the joint committee in charge of the program presided at the ceremony which included musical selections by the girls' chorus from Riverside Indian school.

"Clements, accompanied to the meeting by James Culwell, Chickasha, field executive of the council, said that the Scout council first was named Black Beaver in 1930 when Scouts and citizens of the area were asked to suggest a name for the expanded Scout area.

"Those from out of town attending the ceremony, in addition to Dr. Evans, included Mrs. Elmer Capshaw, Mrs. A. K. Christian, Mrs. E. G. Johnson, Mrs. O. B. Holland, Miss Merry Miller and Mrs. E. L. Massey, all of Norman, and Mrs. Phil Heislcr, Chickasha, all members of the DAR chapter.

"Members of the planning committee for the event were Mr. and Mrs. Hume, Ray Hollar, R. L. Lawrence, Mrs. S. M. Singer, Mrs. William McFadyen, Mrs. Grover Wamsley and Mrs. Susie Peters.

"Members of the Philomathic club attended in a group."

The location of the "Black Beaver" marker is on U.S. Highway #62, on Indian Museum grounds east side of Anadarko. The following is the inscription on the marker:

"Black Beaver (Grave near Anadarko) Famous Delaware Indian. Interpreter for U.S. Dragoon Expedition to Plains Indians, S.W. Okla., 1834. Capt., Indian scouts, U.S. Army in Mexican War. Guide to Far West for many expeditions including Capt. Marcy's escort to emigrants in Gold Rush to California, 1849; and for troops evacuated from U.S. posts in Ind. Ter., to Kans., 1861."

—C.E.
DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER FOR HILLSIDE MISSION
IN TULSA COUNTY, NORTH OF SKIATOOK

Card invitations were sent out by Beta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma, for attendance at the dedication of the Historical Marker erected by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the State Highway Commission, for the Friends Hillside Mission. A large crowd was in attendance at the Hillside Community Church, near Skiatook, at 3:00 p.m., May 13, 1951, Mrs. T. W. Coover, President of Beta Chapter and Program Chairman presiding, when the following dedication program was given under the sponsorship of Delta Kappa Gamma, with the co-operation of Tulsa Historical Society (Central High School), Hillside Community Church, Mrs. W. A. Daugherty, Mrs. Louise Morse Whitham, Mrs. Eliza Richcreek and Dr. Fred S. Clinton:

Invocation .................................................................The Rev. W. G. Clark
Music .................................................................Skiatook High School
Introduction of Honored Guests ..................................................Mrs. Coover
History of Hillside Mission ..................................................Mr. Robert Davis
Remarks ..............................................................................Mrs. Eliza Richcreek
Remarks .................................................................................Mr. Elton B. Hunt
Presentation of Marker .........................................................Judge Redmond S. Cole

In behalf of the Oklahoma Historical Society
Acceptance ........................................................................Mr. Joe Terry, Engineer

Tulsa District, State Highway Commission
Music .................................................................................Skiatook High School

This Historical Marker is located in Tulsa County, on east side of State Highway #11, near the corner with the Osage County line, about four miles north of Skiatook. The inscription on the plaque is as follows: "Hillside Mission (Near here East) Established by Rev. Murdock, under auspices of Friends Society, 1882. This noted school was attended by both Indian and white children. In this vicinity, was home of Wm. C. Rogers, last elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, 1903 to 1917. His grave and that of George Tyner, Cherokee, are in mission cemetery."

—M.H.W.