NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Oklahoma's "Hall of Fame"

Many persons who have heard of Oklahoma's "Hall of Fame" visit the Historical Building and ask for its location here. They are surprised when they learn that the Oklahoma Historical Society does not have a hall or room or gallery designated as the "Hall of Fame"; and that Oklahoma's "Hall of Fame" is a ceremonial held every year by the Oklahoma Memorial Association on Statehood Day, November 16. Recently, the following notes were received by the Editorial Department, from Mrs. Anna B. Korn stating that there is no officially designated "Hall of Fame Gallery" in Oklahoma:

The Historical Society's Gallery

In order to keep the Record straight, let history proclaim the truth. When Judge R. L. Williams became President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, he stressed the procuring of historical data from citizens who had helped build the State, together with their pictures for future reference. The North Gallery in the Society's Museum contains many of these pictures.

When portraits done in oils began coming in as gifts to the Museum, Judge Williams set aside a large room for them, and called it the "Hall of Fame Gallery," and it was so known until his death, as letters from him in my possession show. After his death, the name "Portrait Gallery" appeared above the doors of the West Gallery in the Museum where many fine portraits are to be seen on exhibit. Again for the second time, this name appeared on the first and then, on the second brochure published by the Society. The fact is that neither name has ever had any official sanction by the Board of Directors.

A rule now in force and proposed by me to the Board's "Art Committee," of which I was a member, that in order for a citizen to have his or her picture in the Historical Society's Gallery, he or she must have an invitation from the Board, and this rule has been followed inviolate.

The Oklahoma Memorial Association has never had and does not now maintain a "Hall of Fame Gallery" for portraits, in the state. Two portraits of citizens who have achieved international fame, were presented at a "Hall of Fame" banquet given by the Oklahoma Memorial Association, and these in turn were presented to the State and accepted by the Governor on behalf of the State and hung in the State Capitol. Two portraits are now in the Historical Society's Gallery, having been presented in the same way and accepted by the President of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

For the largest picture gallery of men to be found in the state, take a peep into the West Gallery of the Society's Museum.

—Anna B. Korn, Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Oklahoma's "Hall of Fame" is now a traditional part of the celebration held annually on "Oklahoma Day," November 16th, by the Oklahoma Memorial Association to honor living citizens of the State who have achieved success and distinction in some public...
The Oklahoma Memorial Association is a chartered institution organized in 1927, by Mrs. Anna B. Korn who has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society for thirty-one years. The Memorial Association and the Historical Society are entirely separate in their organization though the officers, directors and members of each are cordially co-operative in their various programs.

The objects of the Oklahoma Memorial Association are set forth in the first paragraph of Article II, in its constitution, as follows:

"The objects of this Association are commemoration, memorial, historical, educational, patriotic and social. To foster a love for state history; to revere the memory of those pioneers who blazed the way for present civilization and progress; to commemorate living citizens of Oklahoma who have achieved success and distinction along some lines of public endeavor worthy of recognition, by the establishment of a Hall of Fame and inducting them into it with ceremony; to publish their biographies in Memorial volumes of this Association; to co-operate with any proper movement to the end that a Memorial Building shall be created on the Capitol grounds to be headquarters for patriotic societies of all wars, and to house the Oklahoma Historical Society and Museum. To beautify the State Capitol with pictures and mural art decorations, statues, and by erection of memorial monuments, plant memorial trees, establish memorial scholarships and to celebrate annually our natal day—November 16th, as memorial to Statehood."

The State President of the Oklahoma Memorial Association together with its officers and board members has received ready co-operation from the State press and civic and patriotic organizations that have made the annual celebration program on "Oklahoma Day" an outstanding event. Beginning on the twenty-first anniversary of Statehood (1928), the "Hall of Fame" was started by the induction of two honorees from Oklahoma's noteworthy citizens, chosen by a special committee. Every year since that time, the initiation of other specially chosen honorees for Oklahoma's Hall of Fame has become the main part of the evening's entertainment and banquet held in the State's capital city, celebrating "Oklahoma Day," with an "Isle of Fame," a "Queen of Oklahoma," a "Royal Escort," together with a special ballet number, music, and the presentation of special certificates to the honorees by the Governor or other prominent citizen of Oklahoma.²

—(M.H.W.)

²Oklahoma's forty-fifth birthday was celebrated by the Hall of Fame banquet in Oklahoma City on Monday, November 17th, 1952, since Statehood Day (November 16th) came on Sunday this year. The President of the Oklahoma Memorial Association, J. G. Puterbaugh, presided at the banquet, and Mrs. Anna B. Korn conducted the evening's ceremony when the following seven honorees were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Dr. Everette DeGolyer, world renowned geologist from Oklahoma, now of Dallas, Texas; Vice Admiral Joseph James Clark, native Okla-
The Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma A. and M. College have recently received copies (mainly photostatic) of 37 important documents from the files of Grant Foreman. Most of them deal with the history of the Chickasaws, Cherokees, Choctaws, and Creeks, though a few relate to the Shawnees, the Plains Indians, and the California gold-seekers. They vary in length from one to 66 pages and cover events from 1803 to recent years.

Dr. Foreman has collected this material through his many years of research in federal and state archives. He permitted the copies to be made as a public service, believing they should be made accessible to scholars using these two important public collections.

One item in the collection is a photograph of the commission given, May 16, 1828, by John McLean, Postmaster General under President John Quincy Adams, to John Ross to serve as postmaster at "Head of Coosa[,] Chattooga District" in the Cherokee Nation and State of Georgia. Here also is the claim for bounty lands by the widow of Sequoyah, giving details of his life and his military service in the War of 1812, with her own signature (by mark).

Some letters are moving in their unstudied eloquence. In the beautiful penmanship of that time David Folsom, "Chief of the N. E. Dist. of the Chahta Nation" in Mississippi, wrote November 7, 1829, to the United States agent, William Ward, who was trying to induce the Choctaws to cede their land and emigrate to the West:

"It is our own Country, it was the land of our forefathers and as their children, we call it ours, and we reside on it. And whenever the great white men come to us, and held treaties with us, they have ever said 'The Country is yours.' The treaties were written for us by the white men themselves, and we have, as a nation our own laws, and are governed by them, and now although white men have surrounded us, and settled on every side of us, here alone can we reside. . . .

"As the agent of the United States Government [you] speak to us, and tell us of another country west of the great River Mississippi, that is good, and where we and our children may have a long and a quite [sic] home and enjoy many blessings. . . . But here is our home; our dwelling places, our fields, our Schools, and all our friends, and under us are the dust and the bones of our forefathers. This land is dearer to us than any other. Why talk to us about removing? We all ways hear Such Council with deep grief in our hearts."

Boman of Cherokee descent and distinguished naval World War II, Chelsea; Dr. J. Raymond Hinshaw, graduate O.U., School of Medicine and Rhodes Scholar, Norman; Thomas Gilcrease, philanthropist-oil man and founder of the Gilcrease Foundation, Tulsa; Dr. Savoie Lottinville, graduate of O.U. and of Oxford, England (Rhodes Scholar) and Director of University of Oklahoma Press, Norman; Hon. George Lynn Bowman, former member State Senate, past President of O.U. Board of Regents and a Director of Oklahoma Historical Society, Kingfisher; Richard Lloyd Jones, noted editor (formerly of Cosmopolitan and Collier's) and owner of The Tulsa Tribune since 1912, Tulsa.
Other letters reveal many details of life in the Indian country after the removal. George W. Harkins wrote from Fort Towson, June 17, 1845, to his uncle, Greenwood Le Flore, in Mississippi, describing educational progress, and economic conditions:

"There is expended in the Nation yearly for School purposes something like thirty thousand Dollars—So you will at once discover the Choc-taws are wide awake to their Interest—Great numbers have embraced the Christian Religion—There is places of worship in nearly all the Neighborhoods of this district—. While I am writing I see from my Window immense numbers traveling the Road to the meeting house—2 miles distant from my house—if you were here, you would take them to be Mississippian from their manners and dress—"

Harkins went on to discuss political prospects. One of the district chiefs, he said, "is not worth his weight in Coon Skins—" Of another, who was a candidate for reelection, he said, "he is the smartest full blood I ever seen—his feelings are changed entirely for the better—You Know he was very hostile while in the old Nation, towards Civilizing the Choctaws—" He reported prospects for crops "very flattering so far," but he had found the new land a "bad country to make money in—too far from the Cotton Market—Red River also a very uncertain stream—" He closed by advising his uncle to emigrate.

Other letters and newspaper clippings give incidents of Indian hostilities in Texas, details of the Chickasaw removal, the struggle of the Creeks to prevent a newspaper friendly to railroad interests from being established in their country, lively accounts of gold-seeking expeditions setting out from Fort Smith, and a description of the Night Hawk Kee-too-wah religion by a present day Cherokee.

The complete list of documents follows:

SHAWNEES

1 Shawnees to alcalde of San Antonio, October 26, 1824, asking for a grant of land in Texas, 1 p. Certified copy from Spanish Archives, General Land Office, Austin, Texas, p. 79 of Translations of Em-prearios. Sealed and certified by Bascom Giles, Commissioner General Land Office, 5-28-47.

CHICKASAWS

2 Return J. Melgs to Major Colbert, May 2, 1803, regarding his son, Pitman Colbert, 1 p.
3 Samuel P. [Pitman?] Colbert to Return J. Melgs, December 26, 1806, giving account of his progress in school, 2 pp.
4 Letter from Chickasaw chiefs, January 25, 1805, refusing to cede land to United States, 2 pp.
5 James Robertson to James Vann, April 22, 1806, regarding cession of land claimed by Cherokees and Chickasaws, 3 pp.
6 James Robertson to Col. Return J. Melgs, May 28, 1805, regarding purchase of Chickasaw land, 1 p.
7 Levi Colbert to President Andrew Jackson, March 31, 1834, regarding amendments to Treaty of Pontotoc, 4 pp.
8 George Colbert et al., Chickasaw delegates, to President, April 21, 1834, regarding amendments to Treaty of Pontotoc, 2 pp.
9 Nomination of Major George Colbert to take the place of Levi Colbert, deceased, as Chickasaw delegate, signed by Chickasaw chiefs, August 24, 1834, 2 pp.
10 Commission of Chickasaw delegation appointed to buy lands from Choctaws (dated November 12, 1836), 3 pp.
11 Chickasaws to President, February 17, 1837, reporting on removal plans, 3 pp.
12 Chickasaws to Capt. William Armstrong, December 13, 1837, requesting construction of a road to their country, and commenting on other details of removal, 2 pp.
13 William Armstrong to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, December 26, 1837, reporting that 2600 Chickasaws have arrived at Fort Coffee, 2 pp.
14 Map of route from Choctaw Agency to Chickasaw District about 1837, 1 p.

CHEROKEES
15 Claim for bounty lands by Sally Guess, widow of George Guess (Sequoyah), giving details of his life and his military service in the War of 1812, 5 pp.
16 Commission to John Ross as postmaster at Head of Coosa, Georgia, May 18, 1828, 1 p.
17 Claim of John Ross for $14,250.62½ damages for intrusion of Georgians upon his property, arrest of Ross and John Howard Payne, and other acts of violence, 5 pp.
18 Letter from John Ross to John Howard Payne, January 7, 1836, regarding Cherokee troubles, 4 pp.
19 Same to same, January 27, 1838, 7 pp.
21 Treaty between Sam Houston and John Forbes, Texas Commissioners, and the Texas Cherokees, February 3, 1836, 7 pp. (4 sheets).
22 Graduation exercises at Cherokee Seminaries, Fort Smith Elevator, July 1, 1892, typed copy (fragment), 2 pp.

CHOCTAWS
26 Greenwood Le Flore to Col. Thos. L. McKinney, May 3, 1828, regarding new laws he has made, and exploring trip to new land, 2 pp.
28 David Folsom, Chief Northeast District Choctaw Nation, to Col. William Ward, November 7, 1829, protesting against removal, 3 pp.
PLAINS INDIANS


33 Clippings from Austin Daily Journal, May 17, June 14, July 11, and July 18, 1871, regarding hostilities of Plains Indians, 3 pp.

34 Newspaper article by Brig. Gen. W. C. Brown of battle with Indians on Little McClellan Creek in Texas Panhandle and rescue of German girls, November 8, 1874, 1 p.

35 Map showing engagement on Little McClellan Creek, November 8, 1874, 1 p.

CREEKS

36 Correspondence pertaining to refusal of Creek Nation to permit Elias C. Boudinot and E. Poe Harris to establish a newspaper, The Indian Progress, at Muskogee, October, 1875 (National Archives, Records Bureau of Indian Affairs, Letters received 1875, I/1432, Enclosure), 66 pp.

TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA, 1849


CRISLER PAINTINGS OF OKLAHOMA HISTORIC PLACES

A special exhibit of twenty paintings of historic places in Oklahoma, by Mrs. Ruth Crisler, in the Historical Society Library, October 31 to November 2, 1952, attracted much interest from visitors in the Historical Building. Mrs. Crisler came to Oklahoma from Texas in 1916, and now has her home in McAlester. She made her first attempt at painting in 1947, at the age of fifty-six, and two years later had lessons in sketching and oil painting, in which she showed talent and keen interest.

More than two years ago, Mrs. Crisler began her pictures of historic places in Oklahoma, her technique developing by a visit to each site where she made sketches in pencil or pastel and took notes to assist her in the final painting. Out of this came the oils presented in her exhibit here in the Historical Building. These paintings represent the twenty historic places as they were when she saw them, many of them only ruins that gave mere hints of their former im-
importance in the life of this state. So unusual are Mrs. Crisler’s pictures that the Oklahoma Historical Society recently purchased the twenty which will be placed on permanent exhibit in the Historical Building where they will portray something of the spirit and atmosphere of Oklahoma’s unique history more than a century past. The exhibit will be shown as the Crisler Collection, of which the following is a list:

1. Sac and Fox Agency, five miles south of present Stroud, Lincoln County. First buildings erected 1872.

2. Russian Orthodox Church at Hartshorne, Pittsburg County. Erected in early 1890’s with the development of coal mining in the region.

3. Wright Home at Old Boggy Depot, Atoka County, built 1860-61 by Rev. Allen Wright, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, who gave Oklahoma its name in 1866.

4. McAlester Home at McAlester, built by Hon. J. J. McAlester a few years after he opened the first coal mining in the state in 1872.

5. Quanah Parker Home at Cache, Comanche County. Erected in 1880’s. Quanah was the famous chief of the Comanche, who as chief of the Quahadi band surrendered at Fort Sill on June 2, 1875.


7. Tobucksil County court house, erected in 1870’s now in Pittsburg County north of McAlester. Tobucksil (correctly Tobaksi—“Coal”) County was organized in the Choctaw Nation in 1855.

8. Wheelock Church, oldest church building in Oklahoma, erected at Wheelock Mission in 1846, and still in use, near Millerton, McCurtain County.

9. Nuyaka Mission at Nuyaka, about 9 miles west of Okmulgee, building erected by Presbyterian Mission Board in 1883, through the work of Miss Alice Robertson who many years later (1922) was elected as first member of the U. S. Congress from Oklahoma.

10. Tucker Tower erected on Lake Murray, in 1930’s near Ardmore, planned as a summer home for Oklahoma’s Governor.

11. “White Chimney,” old house on the famous California Road, erected before the War between the States, about 15 miles west of McAlester.

12. Giant Cypress, oldest tree in Oklahoma, calculated 900 years old or more, marked the old Bethabara Crossing on the Mountain Fork River, near Eagletown, McCurtain County, the end of the Trail of Tears for the Choctaws in the 1830’s. Today in the swamp country of Louisiana, the great old cypress trees are still called “Choctaws.”

13. Summer wickiup of Kickapoo Indians (native wi ki yapi). This native type, mat-covered house can still be seen near Dale, Pottawatomie County. Old native, type house used for centuries.


15. Grass thatched house of Wichita Indians, replica seen near Anadarko, Caddo County. Old native, type house used when Coronado crossed Oklahoma in 1541.
16. General Philip Sheridan headquarters, at old Fort Reno founded 1875-6, Canadian County.

17. Sac and Fox Chief Keokuk's home near Sac and Fox Agency, built in 1870's.

18. Chickasaw Indian Council House at Tishomingo, Pontotoc County, erected about 1854, first building used by the Tribal Council in this vicinity.

19. Old "700" Ranch house, first house built at Ardmore, Carter County, in early 1870's.

20. Log cabin home of the famous Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. House erected in early 1830's, and now an historical shrine in Oklahoma, enclosed in a stone building about 10 miles northeast of Sallisaw, Sequoyah County.

(M.H.W.)

EARLY BANKS AND BANKING IN OKLAHOMA, AND OTHER

NOTES OF INTEREST

The following notes have been received by the Editorial Department from E. H. Kelley, Oklahoma State Banking Department:

EXHIBITS OF BANKS AND BANKING IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recently Mr. J. J. Hamre, President of The Farmers and Merchants Bank at Arnett, donated to the Historical Society a plat book of Ellis County that has long been out of print. It is a valuable contribution, having an alphabetical list of homesteaders, with pictures of many of the early homes of this section of the state. The article of "Old Grand, Ghost Town" by C. A. Squires, in The Chronicles (Winter 1950-51) mentions many early settlers, and it is noted that the picture of a number of these pioneers and their homes appear in this plat book.

In the same issue of The Chronicles is an article by Jack L. Cross, on "Thomas J. Palmer, Frontier Publicist." It is mentioned on page 465 that Mr. M. E. Richardson honored Mr. Palmer by letting him name the first bank in Medford. He named it "The Grand County Bank." Among the exhibits on Banks and Banking in the Historical Society, will be found a photo of the first money and the deposit tickets, deposited in this bank, with the first minutes of the Stockholders and Directors, their By-laws and Charter. It is also interesting to note that The Grant County Bank is the only charter member of the Oklahoma Bankers Association that has not changed its name.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA

Approaching Gage from the east over State Highway #15 there are two bridges close together, in sight of the town. The first bridge spans backwater on both sides of the Highway. This is caused by three beaver dams, built on the land of Mr. F. W. James to the north of the bridge. Mr. James is an officer and director in the First State Bank of Gage, and has no objection to entering his land to inspect the dams. The beavers' home may be seen to the north, from the bridge. You do not have to get out of your car to see it. The willow trees the beavers have cut down may be seen all around their home. The beavers work at night, and probably will not
be seen during the day, but it is interesting to note they bring their in-
dustry right up to the highway for inspection.

After passing the second bridge in the direction of Gage, you will see
the towers of the Government Weather Bureau, Gage to the left of the road,
and just a short distance farther on, the Gage artesian well and municipal
swimming pool and lake will be seen on the right of the road. The State
Board of Health has analysed the water from this well, and it is said to
be good for kidney troubles, rheumatism and eczema. It is the second
largest artesian well in the state.

There are a number of deposits of Bentonite, and volcanic ash around
Gage, some of which may be seen from the Highway. Wolf Creek is a
short distance north of Gage, along which are many natural lakes, and
good fishing can be found from here all the way to Lake Supply.

—E. H. Kelley.

Wichita Kinship—Past and Present

PUBLISHED BY THE OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

This recent publication, Wichita Kinship—Past and Present, by
the late Karl Schmitt, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University
of Oklahoma, and Iva Osanai Schmitt, Research Associate, Univer-
sity of Oklahoma Museum, is a valuable contribution in the field
of anthropology. The paper presents data on old Wichita ways that
have persisted to the present day among the people of this tribe in
Oklahoma, the research in the work having been carried on by the
writers during weekly visits to Anadarko and vicinity in the school
years from 1947 to 1950, and in the course of residence among the
Wichita during the summers of 1949 and 1950. A statement of
methods of field work and analysis of data appears in the "Preface"
of the publication, and the "Introduction" gives a brief statement
on the origin of the present day Wichita, a group of about 500 indi-
viduals living north of Anadarko, in Caddo County, descendants of
the associated tribes of the Caddoan linguistic stock—Wichita proper,
Waco, Tawakoni and affiliated Kichai. This anthropological study
by the Schmitts, published by the Oklahoma University Foundation,
is printed in size 8 1/2 x 11 inches (pp. ix, 72), and has a table of
contents, bibliography and a number of illustrative tables and graphs.
It can be ordered from the University Book Exchange, Norman, Okla-
homa (price $3.00).