NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION HISTORICAL DATA

The following tabulated material presents historical data on the members of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since statehood, giving names of members, tenure of office and other notes that are not available in any other one place. This original compilation is a tabulated part of a thesis on political science titled, “Oil and Gas Regulation in Oklahoma” prepared at Stanford University for the Ph. D. degree, by Eugene L. Swearingen, Assistant Professor of Economics in Oklahoma A. and M. College. Mr. Swearingen's contribution on the history of the Corporation Commission is here published in The Chronicles to make it a matter of permanent record in the Oklahoma Historical Society collections:

Members of the Corporation Commission since 1907

1st Commission (1907-1911)
All were elected Sept. 17, 1907. Exact term of office determined by casting lots. Terms set so that one expires each two years.*

Secretary.
J. E. Love (D) Elected 1907. Reelected in 1912.
J. J. McAlester (D) Elected 1907—Served until 1911. Did not run for reelection.
A. P. Watson (D) Elected 1907. Reelected in 1908 and in 1914.

2nd Commission (1911-1915)
J. E. Love (1907-1918)
A. P. Watson (1907-1915) Removed from office by impeachment and succeeded by W. D. Humphrey (D) 4-23-1915.

3rd Commission (1915-1917)
J. E. Love (1907-1918)

4th Commission (1917-1918)
J. E. Love (1907-1918) Died in office in June, 1918.
Campbell Russell (Elected 1916 to succeed Henshaw—Served until 1922.)
W. D. Humphrey (1915-1919)

5th Commission (1918-1919)
Art L. Walker (D) Appointed in 1918 to fill vacancy created by death of J. E. Love. Elected 1919.
Campbell Russell (1917-1923)
W. D. Humphrey (1915-1919) Resigned to enter private law practice.

6th Commission (1919-1921)
Art L. Walker (1918-1923)
Campbell Russell (1917-1923)
R. E. Echols (Appointed 5-21-1919 to succeed W. D. Humphrey, who resigned.)

* Tenure of Corporation Commissioners given here is compiled from Directory of the State of Oklahoma, 1951, issued by the State Election Board, J. Wm. Cordell,
7th Commission (1921-1923)
Art L. Walker (1918-1923) Resigned.
Campbell Russell (1917-1923) Defeated in 1922 primary by Frank Carter.

8th Commission (1923-1925)
Frank Carter (Elected 1922. Served 1923-1929)
E. R. Hughes (1921-1927) and (1929-1935)

9th Commission (1925-1927)
Fred Capshaw (Elected 1924. Served 1925-1931)
Frank Carter (1923-1929)
E. R. Hughes (1921-1927) and (1929-1935) Only Republican who has ever served on the Corporation Commission. Defeated Frank Carter in general election Nov. 6, 1928.

10th Commission (1927-1929)
Fred Capshaw (1926-1931)
Frank Carter (1923-1929)
C. C. Childers (Elected 1926. Served 1927-1933)

11th Commission (1929-1931)
Fred Capshaw (1925-1931). Did not run for reelection.
C. C. Childers (1927-1933)

12th Commission (1931-1933)
Paul A. Walker (Elected 1930. Served 1931 until he resigned 7-11-1934)
E. R. Hughes (1929-1935)
C. C. Childers (1927-1933) Ran for reelection in 1932. Was beaten slightly by both J. C. Walton and A. S. J. Shaw. Walton then won from Shaw in run-off primary.

13th Commission (1933-1934)
Paul A. Walker (1931-1934)
E. R. Hughes (1929-1935)
J. C. Walton (Elected 1932. Served 1933-1939)

14th Commission (1934-1935)
E. R. Hughes (1929-1935)
J. C. Walton (1933-1939)

15th Commission (1935-1939)
Reford Bond (1934-to date). This is the longest tenure record of the twenty men who have served Oklahoma as members of the Commission.
A. S. J. Shaw (Elected 1934. Served 1935-1941)
J. C. Walton (1933-1939) Did not run for reelection.

16th Commission (1939-1941)
Reford Bond (1934-to date)
A. S. J. Shaw (1935-1941)

17th Commission (1941-1947)
Reford Bond (1934-to date)
Ray O. Weems (1939-to date)
Bloomfield Seminary Centennial

A century of time has now rolled by (1953) since the first bustle of activity came to a pleasant hillside three miles southeast of the present town of Achille in Bryan County; and this, the centennial year of the founding of Bloomfield Academy, seems the proper time to revisit this historic and interesting spot.

Now enclosed within the farm of Dr. E. W. Bolinger, the first location of Bloomfield was in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 8, Township 9 South, Range 9 East.

As with all such ventures of those days, the first construction was inevitably paralleled by an equal need for a cemetery; and the graves at Bloomfield today hold our principal interest. The visitor should remain on State Highway 299 for two miles south of Achille; then turn off at the Bloomfield Marker and proceed another mile south and then one-half mile west and from this point on the section line road the old Bloomfield Cemetery is still prominently seen on the sunny knoll one hundred yards to the left.

The site for the Academy was selected in 1852 by Reverend and Mrs. J. H. Carr, and the institution was opened as a boarding school in September, 1853. The first building was located approximately seventy-five yards south and west of the Cemetery; and little remains today to mark the exact site of the first building.

In 1876, the Chickasaw Legislature reorganized the school as an institution of higher learning for Chickasaw girls, to be known as "Bloomfield Seminary." The original building was destroyed by fire on October 15, 1896, and about a week later "An Act to rebuild Bloomfield Seminary" was passed by the Legislature, and approved by Governor R. M. Harris on October 24, 1896, appropriating $14,000 for the purpose. A large, substantial frame building was erected on a new location in Section 5, several hundred yards northwest of the former site, the section line dividing the two locations. The institution was fortunate in the high caliber of persons who served it as superintendent, through the years, and it remained as an educational strong point for the area until the establishment

---


2 For a photograph of the new building, see Muriel H. Wright, Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma (Norman, 1951), p. 91. Miss Wright's father was Dr. Eliphalet Nott Wright, mentioned in the text.
was again destroyed by fire on January 24, 1914. Rather than again rebuild, decision was made to acquire the old Hargrove College property north of Ardmore, and to reestablish the institution there. In 1929, the name of Bloomfield was changed to "Carter Seminary."

On this our centennial visit our interest lingers at the old cemetery. Much history could be unraveled, even now after one hundred years, by our attention there. One of the oldest dated stones is a model of delightful simplicity:

Little
Kitties
Grave
1853

Perhaps one of the first students at the new institution, Kittie did not live to see completed even the first semester of the boarding school; and her simple monument, now in its second century, has seen the entire history of Bloomfield pass before its face.

Just a few yards from Kittie's grave is that of Angelina Hosmer Carr, of Bedford, Massachusetts, the wife of Reverend Carr. Her stone reads:

Angelina H.
wife of
Rev. J. H. Carr
Born in Mass.
April 1st 1820
Died
Sept. 28th 1864
Servant of God well done
Rest from Thy loved employ
Many Shall Rise up and call Thee Blessed
Little Hattie and Dollie Infant
Children Rest Here with Mother

and its language stands aptly today as a memorial to the sacrifice and fortitude of that pioneer mission family.

Several other stones cannot be overlooked; and the family plot of Holmes Colbert is worth a visit. The central stone reads:

HOLMES COLBERT
Died
Mar. 24, 1873
Aged
43 yrs. 6 mo. 2 ds.
"An Honest Man is the Noblest Work of God
Thy name be Thy Epitaph"

Here a mystery creeps in and who will supply the answer? In his Who's Who on Indian leaders, H. F. O'Brien

died on March 24, 1872 and was buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington. Yet, here he is resting in our own Bloomfield Cemetery and with the date of his death recorded as exactly one year later.

Next to Colbert is the grave of one whose name in itself is exciting to the reader of Oklahoma history. The adjoining stone is inscribed:

"Eliphalet Nott"
COLBERT
Born
Sept. 21, 1856
Died
Nov. 21, 1863

Eliphalet Nott was President of Union Seminary, Schenectady, New York, and here we find his name carried into Oklahoma history by another of the great Indian families. It will be recalled that Reverend Allen Wright gave the same name to one of his sons, Eliphalet Nott Wright. This is not to be unexpected when it is recalled that Holmes Colbert and Allen Wright were close friends and roommates at Union; and a comparison of the birthdates of their two sons reveals that Colbert was the first to remember this famous educator, as young Wright was born on April 3, 1858, some two years later than was Colbert’s son.

Speaking of mysteries, the visitor’s fascination will turn to the dozens of bois d’arc stakes, in neat rows, marking a good portion of the cemetery. The durability of bois d’arc is well known; and could these posts, still in exact and geometric rows, be grave markers or are they simply corner stakes for each of the cemetery plots? That Bloomfield was a Confederate garrison and hospital during a portion of the War is well known, and perhaps these neat stakes each mark the grave of a now unremembered Confederate soldier. In this centennial year of Bloomfield, who will supply the answers?

—George H. Shirk.

L. C. HEYDRICK COLLECTION ON THE RED FORK OIL DISCOVERY, 1901

The Editorial Department recently received two bound volumes of data covering photostatic copies of letters, articles, briefs and other materials relating to the history of the Red Fork oil discovery in the Creek Nation, June 25, 1901, compiled by L. C. Heydrick, of Wichita Falls, Texas. The cover title of the first volume is “Red Fork Discovery—June, 1901”; and the title of the second, “Supplement and Final Report of Red Fork Discovery, June, 1901”—“October 1, 1953.” In his first volume, Mr. Heydrick presents the genealogy of his father, Jesse A. Heydrick of Butler, Pennsylvania,
who with John S. Wick, a former resident of the same place, secured "an amendatory agreement" with members of the Creek Council and some prominent citizens of the Creek Nation to "mine, operate, take and sell oil, gas and other minerals, except gold and silver" on "500,000 acre more or less" in the Creek Nation, the said assignment dated July 16, 1900.

A well was drilled and oil discovered at Red Fork on June 25, 1901, on the land claim of Sue A. Bland, of the Creek Nation, wife of Dr. John C. W. Bland. While this well was a very small producer, it is historically important as the first drilled in Tulsa County, a first step in the later fabulous activities and discoveries in this Oklahoma region that saw the building of Tulsa into the "Oil Capital of the World." The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXX, No. 3 (Autumn, 1952), pp. 312-32, presents an article "First Oil and Gas Well in Tulsa County," setting forth a history of the Red Fork well, written and documented by Fred S. Clinton, M.D., of Tulsa, who was associated with Dr. Bland's interests at the time of the discovery. In 1901, the Creek Nation was still held in common by its Indian citizens, individuals having no right under existing laws to give title to a lease or sale of any portion of the land. The Wick-Headrick lease had never been approved officially by proper authorities, and shortly after the discovery at Red Fork, the lease was declared null and void by the Department of the Interior and the well shut in for a time. However, it was on the Sue Bland claim which became her allotment as a Creek citizen, and when the production began again two or three years later, Mrs. Bland and her heirs after her death received royalties regularly until recently at the final closing of the well.

Mr. L. C. Heydrick sets forth in these two volumes his father's activities in the Creek Nation before and at the time of the discovery at Red Fork. This material has been placed on file in the Library of the Historical Society where it is available to researchers and anyone interested in the history of oil development in the Tulsa region.

—M. H. W.

A Report of the Oklahoma Society's Delegate to the Anniversary of the Royal Geographic Society of Antwerp

1953

The Oklahoma Historical Society was honored as the only Historical Society in this country officially invited to the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Geographic Society of Antwerp, Belgium on June 5 to 6, 1953, and was furthered honored in having as its representative in attendance on this auspicious occasion the Very Rev. Urban de Hasque, S.T.D.,
LL.D., the only delegate from the United States attending the Jubilee, serving also as delegate for the National Geographic Society of Washington, D.C., the only other invited American Society. Father de Hasque, a Life Member of the Historical Society and historian of the Diocese of Oklahoma with a half century of service in Catholic Church pastorates here, serving under appointment by the Oklahoma Historical Society to the Jubilee celebration thus visited his native land of Belgium where he is a son of an ancient family whose name is commemorated in the well known avenue, "Rue Soeurs de Hasque" that leads from the public square to the State University building in Liege.

The resume given here on the celebration of the founding of the Royal Geographic Society of Antwerp is based on Father de Hasque's notes. This two-day Jubilee commenced on Friday, June 5, with a meeting of the 27 foreign delegates and their wives and representatives of other scientific societies on board the beflagged steamer "Flandria," followed by luncheon and a sail down the Scheldt at high tide through the "Kruisechans" lock into the harbor of Antwerp, its large docks equipped with the best maritime installations for loading and unloading steamers rapidly of any harbor in the world. The delegates landed on the pontoon and soon assembled in the City Hall, built in 1621 under Spanish domination, where they were welcomed by City officials addressing them in Flemish, the official language of the Flemish City of Antwerp. In the evening, delegates and members of the Royal Society met at an "intimate dinner" in the large dining hall of the Phirotax Club, one of the oldest and most select in the City.

The delegates convened the following morning in the only Museum of its kind in the world: the recently restored Moretus-Plantin Museum,—the original home, printing shop, engraving atelier, offices and book store of these famous printers of the Sixteenth Century, the whole printing plant with presses, volumes, engravings, family portraits by P. P. Rubens, a rare copy of the Bible in six different languages on each of the in-folio pages printed by Christopher Plantin and some of the geographical books of Mercator and Ortelius having been acquired by the City of Antwerp. A fine feature of typography on menu cards and diplomas for the festive occasion was the reproduction from the original plates of some of the maps by Mercator and Ortelius.

The two most important and most formal sessions of the Jubilee were held in the afternoon and the evening of June 6. The Academical Seance in the afternoon was in the restored Sixteenth Century mansion of Ortelius, the eminent geographer and cartographer of Antwerp and contemporary with the famous Flemish Kramer, in Latin Mercator, whose navigation "chart" remains a standard in map-making, and thereby better known throughout the world today.
The assemblage met in the large hall of this new permanent head-
quarters of the Royal Geographic Society and the Ethnological
Society of Antwerp, the young King of Belgium—Beaudouin—being
represented by Lieut. Gen. Aviator Leboutte accompanied by lead-
ing Ministers of State and notables. Consuls of foreign countries
occupied the first places behind the King’s representatives. Presi-
dent Frederic Good, of the Royal Geographic Society, the foreign
delegates including Very Rev. Urban de Hasque and the principal
speakers occupied the stage behind the long table, facing the large
public gathering in the hall. The King’s Privy Council, Verwilghen
read a paper presenting an eulogy in Flemish on Mercator’s life
and successful accomplishments as a geographical-mathematician.
The Superintendent of the British Museum, A. R. Skelton, reviewed
in French with a slight accent the correspondence between Mercator
(Kramer) and the merchants of London on subjects of geography
and map making. Professor of the Sorbonne and Secretary of the
Geographic Society of Paris, Perpilou presented in brilliant
French “all the facets of Ortelius’ dim luster to proclaim him the
‘Ptolemy of the Sixteenth Century.’”

At the final banquet on Friday evening, June 6, after the
address in Flemish and French by the President de la Chambre
(“Speaker of the House of Representatives”), Frans Van Cauwe-
laert, the Very Rev. de Hasque was the first among the delegates to
present the traditional “Scroll of Honor” from the National
Geographic Society of Washington, D.C. As the senior member of
the delegates, he was the only delegate who received a diploma
(Diplome de Membre d’Honneur) from the Royal Geographic
Society of Antwerp, inscribed in French and bearing the original
signatures of the President, F. Good and the Vice President, Lieut.
Col. N. Laude.

The diploma presented Father de Hasque is a beautiful piece
of typography bearing the reproduction from the original plate of
the map of the world by Mercator made in 1538 (Mappemonde de
Gerard Mercator, 1538). A photograph of this diploma along with
the banquet Menu (in French) beautifully printed and illustrated
from the original plate of Ortelius’ map of Africa, 1570, and bear-
ing likenesses, evidently an original plate, of the great geographers
and cartographers Mercator and Ortelius themselves, is in the
Oklahoma Historical Society Library filed with the original notes
reported by Father de Hasque on this memorable 75th Anniversary
of the Royal Geographic Society of Antwerp.

M.H.W.
Soon after his return to Oklahoma City from his visit to Antwerp in the summer of 1953, the Very Rev. Urban de Hasque discovered in a New York collection a rare map of Arkansas Territory which he secured and has generously presented as a gift to the Oklahoma Historical Society’s rare map collection in the Library. This map was the first officially published for Arkansas Territory, 1822, and includes the Oklahoma region with the names of streams and other locations at that time. It is titled “Map of Arkansa and other Territories of the United States” and “Respectfully inscribed to the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War by S. H. Long Major T. Engineers,” and shows other territories and the Great Plains region west of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. This map is in perfect condition and is bordered on each side with printed columns giving a description of the topography of the regions shown and an historical sketch of Arkansas over the name, “Governor, 1819 James Miller 1822.”

When he was in Antwerp, Father de Hasque discovered a French Atlas of the United States published in 1825, containing a map of Arkansas Territory exactly like the 1822 map described above, except that all place names and other information are printed in French. The Atlas was presented to the National Geographic Society in Washington upon his return to the United States last summer. At his request and through the kindness of Mr. T. W. McKnew, Secretary of the National Geographic Society, a full sized photograph of this French map of Arkansas Territory, 1825, has been presented the Historical Society. These two maps of Arkansas—1822 and 1825—make a rare exhibit in the Historical Society’s collections for researchers. It should be recalled here that the Major S. H. Long, Topographical Engineers, mentioned above, commanded the first exploration by a United States expedition down the Canadian River in 1819 through Oklahoma, and much of the information given on the two maps is from his notes and report.

M.H.W.