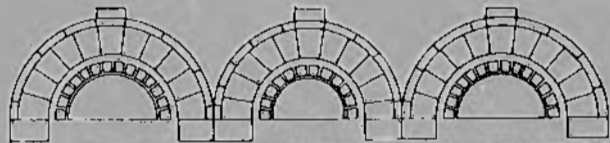


PAYNE COUNTY

HISTORICAL REVIEW

PLEASANT VALLEY



PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

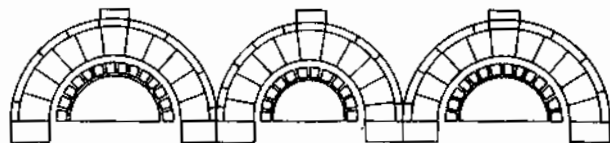
VOLUME XIV

SPRING 1994

PAYNE COUNTY

HISTORICAL REVIEW

PLEASANT VALLEY



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June 15, 1994

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The 1993-94 Officers of the Payne County Historical Society

President: Lawrence H. Erwin

Vice President: Mary Jane Warde (also served as the PCHS representative to the Pleasant Valley School Board)

Secretary: Heather Lloyd

Treasurer: Frances Escue

Past President: Bill Bryans

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|----------------------------|------|
| Directors: Doris Dellinger | 1996 |
| Virginia Thomas | 1995 |
| Julie Couch | 1995 |
| Carol Bormann | 1994 |
| Mahlon Erickson | 1994 |

The Fall Quarterly Meeting was September 26, 1993 and met at the Sheerar Cultural Center. The subject of the program was "The Effect of the Opening of the Cherokee Strip on Stillwater and Payne County," with D. Earl Newsom addressing the subject. We then viewed a special exhibition "Home on the Range, Profits in the Town: The Cherokee Strip Run and its Impact On Stillwater."

The Winter Quarterly Meeting, was held at the Sheerar Center, on January 9, 1994. David L. Payne, a fourth cousin of Captain David L. Payne, addressed the subject of "Should Captain David L. Payne Be Moved To Payne County?" After the program a lively discussion ensued. An overwhelming consensus was that Captain Payne's remains should be moved from Wellington, Kansas to Stillwater.

Subsequently, I appointed a site-selection committee composed of: Virginia Thomas, Chair-person, Glenn Shirley, David Sasser, Fred Kolch, Norbert Mahnken and Elizabeth Joe Heiliger. And a legal committee composed of: Winfrey Houston, Chair-person, Bill Bernhardt, Jr., Gerald Bradshaw, David Payne and Julie Couch.

These committees have been at work and have selected a beautiful site at Boomer Lake Park for a Captain David L. Payne Memorial. The site has been approved by the Stillwater City Commission subsequent to all legal requirements being satisfied. Hopefully, this program can be completed by late 1994.

The Spring Quarterly Meeting program was brought to us by Dr. Brad Agnew of Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on April, 1994, at the Sheerar Center. Dr. Agnew's subject was "The Great Depression in Oklahoma." A special exhibit of Great Depression era was displayed by the Sheerar Museum.

The Annual Meeting was held at The Old Central Museum of Higher Education on the Campus of Oklahoma State University. The program was the Centennial Celebration of Old Central and a re-enactment of the dedication ceremony of Old Central. The meeting was held June 15, 1994.

The Payne County Historical Society's annual awards for outstanding contributions to local history went to Ray and Helen Matoy and the Sheerar Cultural Center and Museum. Ray and Helen Matoy have done yeoman service in their efforts as editors of The Payne County Historical Review. We sincerely thank you Ray and Helen!

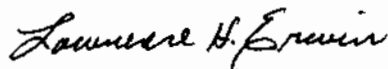
The Sheerar Cultural Center and Museum has continually brought programs and exhibitions of excellent quality that has enhanced our knowledge and history of Payne County. Bill Dunn and his staff have given every co-operation and support to the work and efforts of the Payne County Historical Society. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Aaron Carlson agreed to take the project of restoring of the Oklahoma Historical Society Monument to Registration Booth No. 1 for the 1893 Cherokee Outlet as an Eagle Scout Project. The monument is located on City of Stillwater property immediately north of the National Standard Plant on North Perkins Road. Included in this project is the repainting of two historical markers located on South Main Street, across from the No. 1 Fire Station. These markers commemorate the Last Boomer Town Site of December 12, 1884 and the founding of Oklahoma A and M College. Aaron has completed the repainting of the two markers and work is in progress on the No. 1 Registration Booth monument. The Payne County Historical Society has pledged to pay for the cost of materials used in this project.

The Payne County Historical Society has extended an invitation to the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors to have and hold its annual meeting in Stillwater in the spring of 1996. If this invitation is accepted we will have a great deal of work to do and will need the help of our entire membership.

I would like to thank my Board of Directors and Officers and the entire membership for your help and cooperation in accomplishing what I feel has been a successful year for the Payne County Historical Society.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lawrence H. Erwin, President

PLEASANT VALLEY MEMORIES

BY ED GLOVER

EDITORS NOTE: This article by Mr. Glover is the speech he gives the children when they come to visit Pleasant Valley School.

Hello, and welcome to Pleasant Valley School. I'm Ed Glover, a former student and a member of the Board of Directors, and I'll be visiting with you today about Pleasant Valley School and about my experiences here. While you're here, please feel free to look around, and you'll see that the items gathered by the Board of Directors depict the school's furnishings back in the years of 1895 to 1907.

I'd like to tell you about the history of Pleasant Valley School and how it was restored, and I'd also like to tell you about my boyhood experiences here.

RESTORATION AND HISTORY

In 1986, a group of Stillwater citizens wanted to move the Pleasant Valley School, which was very dilapidated at the time, to the Historical Center of Oklahoma City. When this news got out, several members of the community formed an opposition group. They wanted to keep Pleasant Valley School at its present site. They protested to the City Commission and asked to be given a chance to restore the school on its original foundation. In 1987, a task force was appointed. The task force was requested to come up with reasons why Pleasant Valley School should be retained in the community. They were given 60 days within which to accomplish this task.

In May 1987, the group came back to the City Commission with its report. The City Commission gave the group the challenge of raising \$25,000 in the next 30 days as a positive sign that the members were really certain they

wanted to tackle the project of restoring the school. Three members of the group, Gary Oberlander, Larry Brown and I, hit the roads and got signatures for pledges, and by June 30, we had gathered the required \$25,000. After this achievement, the city granted us a 99-year lease to the land for \$1 and committed the city to pay the utilities if we restored the building.

The restoration, financed entirely with private donations, took approximately one year. We had Bob Carey, a master carpenter who was quite interested in the building, supervise the restoration, and he did a very fine job of restoring the interior and exterior back to its original status. The building was completed and dedicated in June 1989, and the first classes were held the following January.

The very first Pleasant Valley School was located across the street from its present location. The site is now occupied by a gas station. The first school was established in 1894. It was a log cabin with a dirt floor. It was a subscription school. In other words, you had to pay \$1 a month to go to school. The first teacher was Mr. Basil, an 18-year-old man who had accepted the challenge of teaching during the Oklahoma Land Run days.

There's a story about that time that I'd like to mention. There was a little girl named Daisy Downey, who didn't have the \$1 to go to school. Because the teacher and the community wanted to help Daisy get the education she desired, arrangements were made for her to sweep the floor and thereby earn her right to attend school.

The school was located there until 1896 when it burned. The school was moved to its present location in 1899, and it's been there ever since. School was held at this site from 1899 through 1941 when it was consolidated with the Stillwater School system.

CURRENT SCHOOL USES

Today, we use the Pleasant Valley School for a community building to house meetings of those organizations which support education. Reservations must be made in advance for meetings. The other major use of the building is our "Day in History School." We have gathered together a faculty and all the necessary textbooks, including the McGuffey Readers, to teach

fourth graders with a curriculum that is similar to that taught in the 1899 to 1907 period. Mrs. Edna Jungers is the supervisor of our teaching project and has done an excellent job. We have held classes for fourth graders every year since the first class following restoration in January 1990.

These students come to Pleasant Valley School to learn about Oklahoma and to learn about Oklahoma's past by following the curriculum of earlier days. Classes usually consist of 24 to 25 fourth graders who come with their teacher and spend the day. Classes are conducted from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and activities include recitations, recesses as they were in the early days and eating lunches similar to those carried to school by the early-day students. This is quite an experience for the students and gives them background information on why Oklahoma is here.

This year, 1994, we will have 50 classes which will be taught at Pleasant Valley School. Last year, we had 1,500 students going through the program, and we hope that if adequate teaching staff is available, the number of students will increase each year.

Attendance at the school isn't limited to Stillwater School children only. It is a state-wide project. Those who want to come must make their request and obtain approval through our Director of Allocations, but they can come from any school district in the State of Oklahoma.

We feel this is a very worthwhile project and that it informs and teaches the young people about the past, which is now forgotten in many places.

LIVE IN THE 1920s

I had the pleasure of being a student here in 1929. I lived over near 19th and Western Street on my grandmother's old homestead, which she staked in the Run of 1889. The land has now been parcelled out, and real estate has been built on it. In my research, I found the patent on the land that belonged to my grandmother. A two-story house, which still stands, is the old homestead house. It has been preserved to the current occupant's liking. As I drive by there, I reminisce and remember many pleasant times there.

Back in 1926, we visited Grandmother Andrews quite often. In 1928, we lived with her for about six months because my father was a traveling salesman. Of course, this was the time of the Great Depression and ultimately the stock market crash, and it was very difficult to find work, so my mother and I lived with Grandmother and Grandfather Andrews and enjoyed Grandmother's fine cooking and the old homestead while my father was away working.

Grandfather Andrews was born in Burlingame, Kansas and came to Oklahoma on July 4, 1894. Grandmother was born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and she and her father, John R. Ash, came and made the Run. He staked land to the west of the land she staked. He later sold his land to the Sleiger family who lived there quite some time.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The first times I remember on the old homestead have to do with Christmases and Thanksgivings we spent there. There were eight Andrews children, two sons and six daughters, and they all brought their children to these celebrations. All the cousins became very well acquainted, and we looked forward to these events. There were 14 boy cousins and two girl cousins. This made for a rowdy group.

Thanksgiving always featured a bountiful table and a time for game playing. Two of the uncles, Leonard and Horace, were pranksters, and they always inticed the boy cousins to play in some game like a "snipe hunt" at night or trying to "salt the bird's tail" in the daytime. They were boisterous, and they laughed at us as we tried to do the things they told us to do.

After Thanksgiving, we looked forward to Christmas. As I remember in 1928, it was a very cold winter, and we had a lot of ice and sleet covering the ground from November until December. I remember that on one occasion, my grandfather went out to the wood pile and found a covey of quail that had frozen to death. He brought them in, and we had them for dinner.

Christmas was also well attended. Grandfather Andrews loved to sing, and he always liked to have his grandchildren with him. He had been a cowboy earlier in life, and he enjoyed bringing out his guitar and singing for us at Christmas time.

On Christmas Eve, he built a roaring fire and gathered all the grandchildren around and told them to listen for Santa Claus. He would then "go out to check on Santa" and actually go up and stomp around on the roof. When he came back, he asked the children if they had heard Santa Claus. We would say, "Oh, yes! We heard Santa Claus." After this excitement, we were sent off to bed, but we had a difficult time sleeping.

Finally, Christmas Day arrived, and we were all there with our presents. The children enjoyed their presents and shared them with everybody. Later in the day, we had another fabulous meal prepared by Grandmother Andrews and the aunts, Edna, Donna, Vera, Olive, Helen and my mother, Grace. The family was very close, which made holiday celebrations extremely pleasant to attend.

BUTCHERING TIME

After Thanksgiving, of course, winter became very cold, and it was time for the family to butcher its livestock. This was a community affair. We had many neighbors who came to help us kill and butcher our pigs. One neighbor, Fred Nuss, who had staked a claim south of us, was always in demand at butchering because he could shave the pig so closely that you couldn't tell it had ever had bristles. All the neighbors shared in part of the fresh meat, and all the lard was rendered in a big cast iron pot. I always put my name on two pig tails, which I got after they had been well cooked.

PLANTING TIME

That winter went by quickly, and before it was over, my father had returned. My father and Uncle Leonard built a small home for us on the lower forty, and we moved there before planting time. Our crops consisted of cotton, corn and vegetables. As I remember, it was the "year of the snakes," because we had so many that spring and summer. They were harmless, but they were large and numerous and everybody wanted to get rid of them.

Icer, my dog, was good at catching the snakes.

We grew our corn and cotton and picked it, and then that fall came my first year in school.

SCHOOL DAYS

It was quite common for students at that time to have a number of chores to complete before going to school. Chores might include feeding and milking animals and gathering eggs. We had to rise early to do our chores and have time to come in and clean up and have breakfast. It was very important to clean up before going to school because you couldn't go to school with milk on your shoes and be respected.

My favorite cousin, Ralph Andrews, lived to the north of us on top of the hill, and my Aunt Mary told Ralph he was supposed to take care of me and take me to school, and that he did well.

We started out to school about 8 a.m. I picked up Ralph, and we headed down the Zuck property to the northwest, and before we crossed the first fence, our cousin, James Ash, joined us. A little farther on, Ralph, George and Carrie Jacobs joined the group. Next—the Nuss family, Lester, Wilbur, Juanita and Emma—joined in. Down the hill we went toward school with our lunch pails swinging in the breeze and looking forward to a great day in school. We all loved school, and no one could keep us away unless we were very ill.

Other groups coming to school included the Montgomerys, the Frys, the Greens, the Buffingtons and the Harringtons from the north and west. Those walking in from the south were the Harrises and the Rheins, and the Hillermans were right next door. The Bradleys lived just across the street north. We all had large families, and each family had several students in class.

As we arrived at school, the teacher greeted us. We always went in the back door (I don't know why). In the wintertime, the old pot-bellied stove made the room warm and inviting. After we came inside, we placed our lunch pails in an old pie safe. We were told to leave them there until lunch. After storing our lunches, we went back outside until the teacher rang the bell at 9 a.m. Then we came inside and took our assigned seats.

The day began with the teacher leading the students in The Lord's

Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. She followed by making class assignments for the next day. Students were then told to prepare for recitations. On my first day of school, our teacher, Mrs. Virginia Lee, took me to the back of the school room, and for 30 minutes before recitations, we sat on an old church pew while I recited my ABCs, and we discussed my Bobbs Merrill reader. She helped me learn new words from the reader, and after a number of these sessions, I was able to read and take part in the class.

In turn, each class was called upon to come forward to the recitation bench, and each student recited about what every questions or problems the teacher had assigned. After all students in the class had recited, the teacher gave the students an appraisal and an assignment before they returned to their seats. This went on through the morning until 10 a.m., when we had recess.

If the weather was decent in any way, we went out and played games. If it rained, we stayed inside and drew on the chalkboard or visited. At recess, we played such games as, "King on the Mountain," "Crack the Whip," "Annie, Annie Over," or sometimes we would just race or wrestle.

Back in school again at 10:30 a.m., recitations continued until noon when we were permitted to pick up our lunch pails and either go outside or eat at our desks. This was really a gourmet adventure for those who loved to eat because the students in this school were from all ethnic groups representing a cross section of the people who made the Run. For instance, there were quite a number of Germans, French, Italian, Polish, English, Spanish and other students. One could go around and visit with these different ethnic groups and trade food. I really enjoyed this arrangement. There was one person I really loved to trade with—Mr. Simon. His mother was a fine cook, and she made one of the best chocolate fried pies I've ever tasted. I would trade him anything in my lunch bucket for the fried pie. We usually came together on a deal, and for many days, my lunch time was spent with Mr. Simon.

On Friday afternoons, we had spelling bees and math matches. The teacher picked captains, and they selected their groups. In both contests, the group with the most students standing at the end won.

Everyone enjoyed school, and we very seldom ever saw a fight. If a fight occurred, the participants were told to get off the school ground.

Of course, we all also looked forward to Saturday because it was a "free" day, although we had to work, either with the animals, cutting and bringing in wood, or helping with the harvest.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Other activities at school included pie suppers and box suppers. Usually the first pie supper came in October around Halloween. This was an auction, and the auctioneer was usually George Jacobs or Joe Human. They had good voices and were popular people in the neighborhood. Of course, all the young men were trying to buy their girlfriend's boxes. I always bid on Bernice Montgomery's since she was my girlfriend. They would bid and rebid, and finally, the successful bidder was selected, and they would buy the box, which permitted them to join the girl for a picnic. The highest priced boxes went for maybe \$1.50, but most went for 25 to 50 cents, and the proceeds were used to buy things for the school.

The pie supper started off the activities of the year. Then our Thanksgiving program, which was a very formal presentation for the parents, would follow. Everybody participated, and every parent was there to see little Johnny or little Mary do his or her part. The Christmas program also attracted a houseful of parents. This program was Christmas Pageant with group singing of Christmas songs. At this time, the Board of Education gave each student a gift of candy, nuts and fruit stuffed in a sock. We all really looked forward to this event.

After the Christmas holiday vacation, we came back to school in January to finish the year. We didn't have another holiday except for Easter celebration, which usually entailed an Easter Egg Hunt held in the school yard. The parents attended, and we had a religiously oriented program and singing.

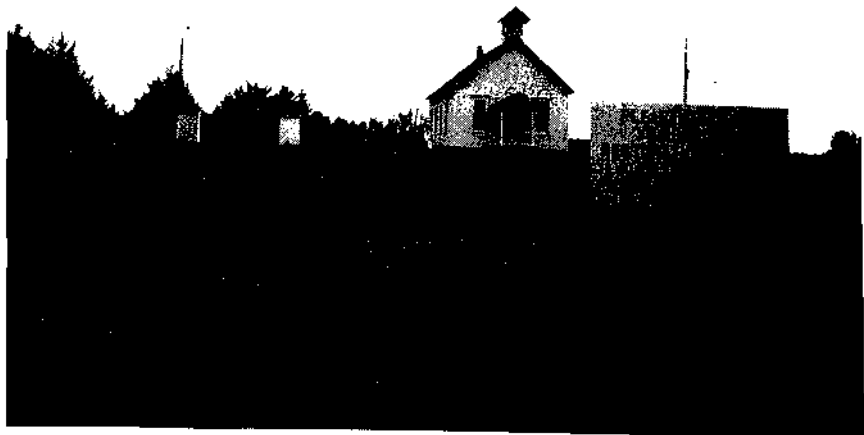
LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER

As the weather warmed, our minds began to wander, and we started looking forward to the good old summertime. It was very difficult to stay inside and study. We looked forward to freedom—running barefoot through

the fields, picking the first watermelon and first fruit from the trees and helping with the chores and crops.

HAPPY MEMORIES

To this day, the Pleasant Valley School brings back these wonderful memories of a bygone era. It is a very important and happy place for me, and I hope it will be for you too.



Pleasant Valley School

Our thanks to Ed Glover for this report on the Pleasant Valley School. We also thank Gary Oberlander, Larry Brown, and Ed Glover for their work on the Pleasant Valley project. Their work has saved an important part of history for all of us to enjoy.

GENESIS

By

Harold W. Straughn

On September 22, 1891, my father, Doley Straughn, rode a mule named Jack in the race for land in the opening of the Iowa & Sac & Fox Indian Reservation of Oklahoma. The race started from the north side of the Cimarron River and it was necessary to ford the river and climb a steep bluff at the very beginning of the race. After ascending the bluff he rode about three quarters of a mile before driving his stake. It was a very promising tract of upland and he thought he was getting 160 acres but when he went to Guthrie to file on his claim it proved to be only an 80 acre tract. However, they were very happy to have been successful in obtaining the 80 acres. The legal description is E2 SE4 Sec. 29-18N-4E.

Mother with her baby (Lois) remained in Clayton about three miles from the claim until Papa had hauled lumber from the nearest railroad, forty miles, to build a small one room house, 12' x 16' in size, which served as living room, bedroom, kitchen, and dining room at the time of my birth on May 2, 1895.

My earliest memory is of the Oklahoma wind blowing through the key hole of the south door of this little house making a whistling sound. The house sat on the open prairie with grass in almost every direction.

Papa had lived in Newton County, Missouri as a boy and as there was much fruit grown there at the time and he was familiar with the different kinds of apples and other fruit. He was very interested in getting an orchard started and by the time I was born they had about two acres planted to fruit trees and within five or six years their trees were producing 8 varieties of apples, three or four varieties of peaches, two kinds of cherries, plums two varieties, pears, apricots, grapes, currents, goose berries and black berries.

Some ornamental trees and shrubs were planted in the yard. Red cedar and slippery elm could be had on the river bluffs about a mile west of the

Map of Cimarron Township - Payne County, Oklahoma - 1907

Part of Townships 17 & 18 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian



homestead. Mother took a great interest in the yard and garden. The most delightful shade tree on the place was a mulberry that they planted west of the house and within a few years was huge and provided shade in which children could play and climb on its branches. It was under this tree that a cider mill was placed each Fall and there the large stone jars of cider sat until it turned to vinegar. The fresh cider was delicious but too much of a good thing can produce distress.

One of the first tasks that Papa accomplished after the house was built was to dig a well. It was about 25 or 30 feet deep and four feet in diameter. Papa employed Luther Canady to wall it with lime stone rock obtained from a neighbor where limestone was plentiful. The water was both ample and excellent, cold and clear. The water was drawn with a rope and pulley an "old oaken bucket." Many times we drank from the brim of the oaken bucket. How refreshing it was on a hot afternoon when we returned from the field. A milk house was built beside the well and water was drawn and poured into a trough that led to a larger wooden trough within the milk house. The crocks and jars of milk were placed in the trough and the cold water flowed through this trough and kept the crocks and jars of milk sweet and cool. The excess water flowed out through an opening in the far end into a tank where the horses were watered when they came in from the field. All this was necessary since there was no refrigerators on farms then. Each day the pure cream from the separator was poured into a five gallon can and lowered by a rope to near the bottom of the well where it remained day and night until the trip to town once or twice each week where it was sold, the proceeds kept the family in the necessities of life, as well as a contribution to the Lord on the first day of the week. We attended church at mount Cimarron, a rural church three miles from our home. We made the trip in a farm wagon and when it was cold it was very cold and when it was hot it was very, very hot but many times after church we would go home with some of the other farm families for dinner or they would go to our house but we lived so far away that it seems to me we visited others more than they visited us. My favorite place to go was to the Gillespies for Kessler and I were firm friends and companions both at school and church. In fact we both obeyed the Gospel of Christ at the same time and were baptised

in Big Creek before there was a bridge where State Highway 33 crosses at present. It was a beautiful clear stream then and a shoal was there which made for a solid rock base for vehicles to cross the creek.

Kessler had two white dogs that he trained to work in harness and pull a little wagon and they were strong enough for him to ride on level ground. One time he came to our house to play and brought his dogs and wagon. We were in the pasture across the road from our house when the dogs, while still hitched to the wagon, flushed a rabbit and Kessler could not restrain them. So, Mr. Rabbit was being chased by a team of dogs hitched to a wagon. Needless to say there was considerable untangling and repairing to do when the dogs decided to give up the chase.

There were many Jack Rabbits and Cotton Tails in the country then. One could not walk across the pasture or meadow without seeing one or more and in the spring when we would go to the pasture to drive the cows in for milking we would often see a dozen or more.

Life was geared to a much different environment then than now. In my early youth we, nor did our neighbors, have a telephone. Wood was the fuel used for both heating and cooking. No water piped into the house. One was fortunate to have a good well of water close at hand from which to draw with an "old oaken bucket" and that would supply all the needs of household and live stock.

Part of each days chores was to see that a good supply of wood was delivered to the kitchen or if heating stove wood to near the back door. Cows were milked both morning and evening by hand and the cream separated from the milk by turning an "Iowa Cream Separator." We often milked as many as 16 cows. All the power on the farm was either horse power or man power. No motors or engines of any kind. One farmer in our township had a large steam engine to power a threshing machine and he did threshing for the entire neighborhood. Our home was lighted with kerosene lamps. The carpet on the living room floor was woven from remnants of worn out clothing. Mama would tear the pieces into strips about an inch wide and sew the ends together and wind into a ball. After a basket full of these balls accumulated she would deliver them to an old lady who lived about three miles from our home. This

lady had a home made wooden loom and would convert the balls of cloth into a carpet. When the finished carpet arrived, Mama would pad the floor with oat straw, and stretch the carpet real tight and tack it to the floor and thus we had a wall to wall carpet on which the children would romp and play.

One of the first modern services to come to our community was Rural Mail Delivery. That was a great blessing. A little later rural telephone service and that was out of this world even if you had to share the line with several neighbors. I believe our ring was a short-a long-and a short.

Mama had a hand operated washing machine but we children helped turn the crank part of the time. The churn was a dasher type and the butter as well as the butter milk was delicious. The coffee came in pound packages but had to be ground in a hand operated coffee grinder. Sugar was purchased in 100 pound sacks especially in fruit canning seasons. All farm implements were pulled by horses.

Harvest time was a very busy time as we exchanged work with neighbors. The crops grown were wheat, oats, maize, cotton and corn. We had a meadow of native prairie grass that was cut and stacked or baled each summer. Hugh and I became experts at chopping cotton. Papa would plant about 50 acres and we would do all the chopping. Papa did not keep us out of school to pick cotton in the Fall but on Saturdays we did some of that.

Sunday was the Lord's Day and we did no field work but of course the stock had to be attended and cows milked twice each day. Also, there was no hunting or fishing on that day at our house. Nor were we permitted to go to ball games on Sunday.

There was always plenty to do on the new farm home. Fences to build and shelters for the stock. Papa built a crib of oak logs and attached a stable to the south side that was large enough for four horses. This stable was built mainly of walnut boards about 12 inches wide and an inch thick with scarcely a knot in them. I wonder what that stable would sell for today.

It is difficult to visualize the beginning of a new life in a country where everything had to be provided by hard work most of which with your hands. Of course horse power or ox power was indispensable. No railroad closer than forty miles. No place to borrow money. No relief programs and no planned

work where one could earn money. Papa freighted from Guthrie for a store in Cushing to obtain groceries for his family. They did not pay him in money but in staple groceries. Two days was required for the trip there and back for which he might earn three dollars paid in groceries or kerosene for lighting the home.

Papa was often out late at night on trip to market but we knew when he was nearing home for he loved to sing and we could hear him long before he arrived.



ca 1906

The Doley Straughn family R. to L. is Harold, 10, with his dog, Hugh, 7. Father Doley and behind him is Mother, Nannie, then sister Lois with her friends. Howard was born August 18, 1906 soon after this picture was taken. Our thanks to Howard Straughn who lives in Kansas City for this contribution.



Ca. 1907

This picture shows the Doley Straughn Family. Doley Straughn staked the claim in the opening of the Sac and Fox Indian territory, September 22, 1891. Notice the waist high prairie grass in the fore ground

**BY LAWS
OF**

PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this society shall be The Payne County Historical Society, a not for profit Oklahoma corporation.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Payne County, Oklahoma. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

The society's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area: its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade, and transportation. It will collect printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteers, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogs, circulars, handbills, programs and posters; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys, and field

The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it, to co-operate with officials in insuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the county and of its cities, towns, villages, and institutions, and to undertake the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markers.

The society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in the newspapers or otherwise: by holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites, and trails; and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest.

The society will cooperate with the Oklahoma Historical Society and with other county organizations, museums, agencies, societies, etc., to collect and preserve materials of state-wide and local significance so that these materials can be made available to students and scholars.

ARTICLE III

Membership and Dues

Section 1. Any person interested in the history of Payne County, Oklahoma who applies for membership in any classification of membership and who tenders the necessary dues shall thereby become a member.

Section 2. Membership shall be of six classes and the annual dues shall be as set forth.

- A. Individual active members—Any person interested in the society shall be eligible, annual dues—\$12.00.
- B. Family active members—Any husband and wife interested in the purpose of the society shall be eligible, annual dues—\$17.00.

- C. Institutional members—Any organization, board, school, or library interested in the history of Payne County, Oklahoma shall be eligible, annual dues—\$20.00.
- D. Contributing members—A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible, annual dues—\$25.00.
- E. Sustaining members—A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible, annual dues—\$50.00.
- F. Life members—\$100.00 payable in one year.
- G. Honorary members—Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the society. Honorary members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of members present at an annual meeting, upon nomination by the board of directors.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be payable in advance, and any member in arrears shall be dropped from membership.

Section 4. "Annual" constitutes the time period from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE IV

Schedule of Membership and Board of Directors Meetings and Quorum

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the membership shall be held every June.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the membership shall be held once every three months (March, June, September, November.)

Section 3. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the president.

Section 4. All the active members of the society who are present and voting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The board of directors shall meet every month. Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the chairman of the board.

Section 6. At any meeting of the board of directors six members shall constitute a quorum. The board of directors will elect its own president, vice-president and secretary. The board of directors through the president shall render an annual report at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1. The officers shall be a president, vice-president, and a secretary, who shall be elected for a term of one year; a treasurer and five directors who shall be elected for terms of three years and the immediate past president shall serve as a director until the next immediate past president is available to serve.

Section 2. The officers and directors shall constitute the board of directors.

Section 3. Election of Officers and Board of Directors.

A. All officers and directors shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by ballot at the annual meeting.

B. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the secretary of the society shall send to each member of the board of directors

a blank upon which such member may nominate one person for each office open to election. Nominations shall be returned not less than one month before the annual meeting. A committee on nomination, appointed by the president of the board of directors, shall select the candidates from a list of all nominees.

C. Nominations may also be made by any member of the society at any time prior to balloting at the annual meeting. Any nominations made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting. A candidate for election shall be an active member in good standing and shall have agreed to the nomination.

D. A person who has been elected to the board of directors for two consecutive terms, or elected as president or vice-president for three consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and the beginning of the term for which he is nominated.

E. Officers and directors shall be installed at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of resignation or incapacity of any officer except the president, or any director, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the board of directors for the unexpired term of office.

Section 4. Duties of the Officers and Directors.

A. The president shall have executive supervision over the activities of the society within the scope provided by these by-laws. He shall preside at all meetings. He shall report annually on the activities of the society. He shall appoint the members of committees and delegates not otherwise provided for.

B. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the event of absence, incapacity, or resignation of the president.

C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings of the society and of the board of directors, maintain a list of members, and render an annual report.

D. The treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of society funds and for maintaining adequate financial records. He shall deposit all monies received by him with a reliable banking company in the name of Payne County Historical Society. Monies shall be paid out by numbered checks signed by the treasurer and the president. The treasurer will collect dues, and he shall render an annual report based on the calendar year.

E. The board of directors shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the society. It shall select candidates for office, pursuant to the By-Laws. The board of directors shall decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the society and perform such other functions as designated in the By-Laws or otherwise assigned to it.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1. The society shall have the following standing committees:

- A. Library Committee—responsible for collecting, cataloging, the care, arrangement, and repair of books manuscripts, newspapers, and other historical source material.
- B. Publications Committee—responsible for finding ways and means for publishing joint or individual research studies; a quarterly bulletin, or books for publicity; for staging radio and television programs.

- C. Historic Sites Committee—responsible for establishing the historic validity for sites proposed for marking for marking historical sites; for arranging historical tours.
- D. Program Committee—responsible for arranging suitable programs; for setting time, place, and date of meetings.
- E. Membership Committee—responsible for membership drives and processing new candidates for membership.
- F. Nominations Committee—responsible for making nominations for officers and members of the board of directors.
- G. Publicity Committee—responsible for publicizing all events, activities, and interests of the society; for sending notices of all meetings to members.

Section 2. The president shall appoint members and chairmen of the standing committees.

Section 3. Other committees, standing or special, may be appointed by the president as directed by the society or board of directors.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the society except in such cases as are governed by the constitution or the By-Laws.

Editorial Policy

The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* is published semi-annually by the Payne County Historical Society. It is distributed without additional charge to members of the Payne County Historical Society. Single issues, when available, may be purchased at \$3.50 each.

The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* welcomes reader's comments, news, or requests for information from readers. Family histories, memories, diaries, letters, histories or groups or institutions, articles, photographs, or maps are also welcome. No payment is made for articles published in the *REVIEW*.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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