

# DOWNLOAD PDF FORMATION OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA (1803-1906)

## Chapter 1 : The Formation of the State of Oklahoma ()

*The Formation of the State of Oklahoma () Volume 6 of Publications in history, California University /. Volume 11 of Semicentennial publications of the University of California.*

When he was a young boy the family moved to Michigan. In , at the age of sixteen, Barnes joined the Union army as a volunteer soldier. His experience in telegraphy earned him a position in the Military Telegraph and Engineering Corps of the Union army. He served for the duration of the war and spent a portion of his enlistment as the secretary to Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon. Barnes left the army at the age of twenty and moved to the capital city of Little Rock, Arkansas , where on June 6, , he wed the former Elizabeth Mary Bartlett of North Adams, Massachusetts. Grant as the federal judge. Barnes gained a friendship with the powerful Clayton family , most notably former Governor of Arkansas and then U. He held that position for four years until the return of President Grover Cleveland. During the 3rd session, he was Speaker of the body. Barnes formally took the oath of office on May 24, During his four-year term, Barnes defeated the attempts of the 6th Legislature to create numerous additional territorial institutions justified by the growing idea for the formation of the State of Oklahoma. Barnes promptly vetoed this legislation. His term in office ended on April 15, , when William Miller Jenkins took the oath of office as his successor. Governor Barnes continued to live in Guthrie, at which he served as the president of the Logan County Bank. He was elected to and served as mayor of Guthrie in from to and again in from to Death and legacy[ edit ] In his later years as his health began to fail, he relocated again, this time to New Mexico. He died at Albuquerque. His body was returned to Guthrie and interred at the Summit View Cemetery. Barnes was a member of the Episcopal Church , serving as a senior warden of the Guthrie church for many years. He was an active affiliate of both the Scottish and York rites of the Masonic fraternity.

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## Chapter 2 : History of Oklahoma - Wikipedia

*Excerpt. The passage of an enabling act for Oklahoma in June, , brought to a close the formation of new states from the Louisiana Purchase. The area included within the limits of Oklahoma was kept free from the jurisdiction of a state government longer than any other part of the acquisition.*

The formation of two separate commonwealths was never probable, if indeed it was ever possible; but many persons both in what is now Oklahoma and in other parts of the United States were committed to such an arrangement. The delay incident to the reorganization of the Five Civilized Tribes gave opportunity for a full discussion of the question, and the struggle between those who wanted one state and those who wanted two seemed at the time to overshadow everything else. The agitation for statehood began soon after the establishment of the Territory of Oklahoma. It is possible to say that it began even earlier. The settlers had hardly crossed the border before they began to ask for the forms of government to which they had been accustomed, and a bill was introduced in Congress in December, , for the admission of a part of the Indian Territory as the state of Columbia. This bill, however, did not receive consideration. In the people of Oklahoma began to ask seriously that it should be admitted. In December of that year there was held at Oklahoma City a convention which sent a memorial to Congress asking for statehood. In January, , David A. Harvey, the first territorial delegate to Congress, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives for the same purpose. Seay, the second governor of the territory, in his report for asserted that Oklahoma would be entitled to admission into the Union in a very short time. The plan for two states was already receiving attention. It will be remembered that two bills were introduced in Congress by members from Arkansas as early as the spring of which provided for the formation of a separate state from the country occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes. Several bills of different sorts for the reorganization of the former Indian Territory were proposed between December, , and the beginning of . On December 20, , the House Committee on Territories, whose leading members were Southern men, presented a report favorable to a bill introduced by its chairman, Joseph Wheeler of Alabama, for the admission of the Territory of Oklahoma. Facts were presented in this report to show that Oklahoma alone had sufficient resources for a state. It was apparent that many Southern congressmen preferred that two new states should be formed from this section of the Southwest to offset in part the new states that had been formed recently in the Northwest. A division of sentiment at once became evident in the territories. In January, , the members of the Democratic central committee of the Indian Territory protested against union with Oklahoma. They preferred separate statehood, or double statehood, as it was also called. Both plans had supporters in the two territories during the next ten or twelve years. Between and little attention was given to the proposals for the admission of Oklahoma. As a result of the election of , the Republicans secured control of both houses of Congress. They postponed the consideration of statehood for Oklahoma until affairs in the Indian Territory could be adjusted in preparation for a reunion of the two territories. The North and the East generally disapproved of more Western, or especially Southwestern, states than was necessary. Several bills dealing with Oklahoma were introduced in Congress during this period, but not one of them received serious consideration. Meanwhile, the two territories were developing under different conditions. Oklahoma was occupied by small landowners. The Indian Territory was a community of landlords and leaseholders, either of farms and ranches or of coal, gas, oil, and asphalt rights. The government at Washington was trying to introduce the usual system of land tenure in the Indian Territory, but with each year of delay the irregular and accidental boundary between it and Oklahoma became more important. Moreover, Congress needlessly permitted the territories to develop as separate political units. Their administrative systems were entirely different, since one was an organized territory, and the other unorganized. Their codes of laws also were different, since the code of Arkansas was used in the Indian Territory instead of the code of Oklahoma. The union of the two could have been accomplished with less friction in than in , and the authority of the United States would have been a powerful force in preparing the enlarged territory for statehood. This

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plan was not considered as it should have been. The differences between the two sections were numerous and important, but a territorial government could have been devised to meet the situation. Those who did not wish the union to take place at all, joined with those who did not wish to act until it should become absolutely necessary, were able to keep the territories separate for the time. Most of the people of the Territory of Oklahoma preferred to wait for admission until the two territories could be formed into one state. Barnes, the fourth governor of Oklahoma, appointed in , said in his report for I agree with the larger and more conservative part of our people that it is better to wait a reasonable time and eventually, by a union of the two territories, establish one grand state. The Democratic territorial convention declared for the union of the territories. The Republican convention declared for the admission of Oklahoma with such boundaries as Congress wished to give it. Governor Barnes in his report for that year called for the immediate admission of the Territory of Oklahoma, but he did not say whether he wished it to be admitted separately or in conjunction with the Indian Territory. The people of the Indian Territory gave separate statehood somewhat more favorable consideration, although they were interested chiefly in the work of the Dawes Commission. They knew that their territory would not be ready for admission for a few years, and the proposal that it should be annexed to Oklahoma, one reservation at a time, was particularly distasteful to them. They believed, too, that the people of that portion would control the important offices at first, because of their political experience. Public opinion in the country at large regarding the admission of new states was of more significance than the attitude of the people of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. The conventions of both the great parties in declared unequivocally for statehood for Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, but the form of statehood for Oklahoma was not specified. It was expected that the Congress elected in would take up the matter at once when it met in December, Two of the seven bills introduced in the House of Representatives during this session for the better government of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory were reported by the committee. Moon of Tennessee, the leading member of the minority on this committee, was reported favorably by its author on March 14, ; the other for the admission of Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico, introduced by William S. Knox of Massachusetts, the chairman of the committee, was also reported favorably by its author on April I. The Knox bill provided that Oklahoma should be admitted alone, but that the new state must give its consent irrevocably to the annexation of the Indian Territory, wholly, or in part, if Congress should determine upon such a plan. The Moon bill provided for the government of the Indian Territory in the mean time. These reports were clearly the result of a compromise that was intended to defer the settlement of the matter. Those who favored single statehood for the two territories believed that Congress finally would annex the Indian Territory to Oklahoma. Those who wanted each territory to form a separate state believed that the union of the two would be impossible if Oklahoma should be admitted alone. The Moon bill received no further consideration, but the bill for the admission of Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico passed the House on May 9, in spite of the opposition of members who thought that the people of the Indian Territory either should be allowed to participate in the organization of the new commonwealth or should be separated from it permanently. The opponents of the statehood bill in the Senate at once adopted a policy of delay. While party lines had not been drawn in the House, the Democrats of the Senate seem to have united in support of the bill, and the Republicans seem to have opposed it. Quay of Pennsylvania, a member of the Committee on Territories, was the most prominent Republican who was out of harmony with his party. Beveridge of Indiana, to agree to make a report at the beginning of the next session in December, The committee was composed of eleven members. Quay and the four Democrats presented minority reports favorable to the House bill on December 10 and December 15, respectively, but the majority report made on December 10 was adverse to it. A substitute bill for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory as one state was included in a preliminary report of the committee made on December 3, but it was withdrawn for revision when the final report was presented. Quay tried many times to bring the House bill to a vote, but on March 3, , the session came to an end without action. The contest over the statehood bill gave the people of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory an opportunity to present their views. Both factions in the Senate appealed to them for support. A

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subcommittee of the Committee on Territories in November and December, , gave a series of public hearings. Two important elements were found to be opposed to the immediate admission of the territories as one state. The governments of the Five Civilized Tribes declared in favor of the separate admission of the Indian Territory. On November 28, , Indian officials held a meeting at Eufaula, where they adopted a statement regarding their position. The tribes also protested separately against union with Oklahoma. Many of the active Republicans of the Territory of Oklahoma were as much opposed to union with the Indian Territory. They made their appeal on purely partisan grounds. Oklahoma alone would be a close state politically, so ran their appeal, but in time they hoped that it would be safely Republican. If this should prove true, it ought to be kept separate from the Indian Territory, which would be overwhelmingly Democratic. If this should not prove true, Congress could join it to the Indian Territory so that only one new Democratic state might be admitted. Congress, however, ought to give the Republicans a chance to carry Oklahoma before doing this. Thus the wishes of the Indians and party expediency were the chief arguments against single statehood. In the Territory of Oklahoma a sectional division became manifest. This appeared in the attitude of the four leading towns of the territory. It was evidently due in part to the local benefits expected to come from the particular form of statehood favored. Enid and Guthrie openly declared for the House bill and the immediate admission of Oklahoma. Shawnee and Oklahoma City were committed to a union of the territories. The form in which the question of statehood was presented to the people of the Indian Territory did not allow them a free choice of answers. To many it seemed that union with Oklahoma would be inevitable in the end. Accordingly, they preferred to become a part of the new state at the beginning. The non-citizens apparently favored immediate single statehood rather uniformly. Those of the Chickasaw district in particular desired union at once. Those in the eastern and central parts were noncommittal. An opportunity to choose freely between the immediate admission of the territory with Oklahoma and the immediate admission of it as a separate state might have brought out somewhat different replies. The people of the two territories on the whole clearly expected and probably favored joint statehood. In anticipation of this, religious, fraternal, and commercial organizations had already ignored the line between the territories in many cases. It was argued that one state government would be less expensive than two, and that Oklahoma and the Indian Territory together would make a state only approximately as large as Kansas, or Missouri, or Nebraska, or one of the Dakotas. Separately, they seemed very small in proximity to the state of Texas, eight times as large as either of them. To many persons it seemed most important that the joint state should contain within its limits agricultural and mineral resources to form a well-balanced industrial unit, in which commerce could be regulated by the state. It soon became clear that the leaders in Congress had determined upon a union of the territories. In November, , Congress met in a brief special session.

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### Chapter 3 : Oklahoma Territory | The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

*The Formation of the State of Oklahoma: [Dr. Roy Gittinger] on [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Oklahoma, the forty-sixth state admitted to the union, has a history much more interesting and extensive than its relatively recent statehood indicates.*

A controversy concerning the issue of single Oklahoma statehood or admission as two states one formed from Oklahoma Territory and one from Indian Territory proceeded throughout the s and into the first years of the twentieth century. Theodore Roosevelt recommended joint statehood. In the Fifty-ninth Congress seven bills were introduced to accomplish this. The issue was complicated by a proposal to admit the territories of Arizona and New Mexico as one state. This latter was a sticking point, and considerable controversy surrounded the writing of a suitable bill. A compromise achieved in early June provided for the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as one state, if their populations so agreed in separate elections, and admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one, upon writing and ratifying a constitution. The movement for statehood thus culminated in June with the passage of the Enabling Bill, setting in motion the process of establishing constitutional state government. The Enabling Act empowered the people of the Oklahoma and Indian territories to elect delegates to a constitutional convention and set up a state capital temporarily at Guthrie, in former Oklahoma Territory. The capital was to remain at Guthrie until and thereafter would be located permanently by electors chosen at a statewide election that would be called by the legislature. The act included several stipulations that must appear in a constitution. Freedom of religion was to be preserved. Polygamy and plural marriage were prohibited. Prohibition of the manufacture, sale, barter, or gift of liquor was mandated for twenty-one years, after which time the constitution could be amended for or against. A dispensary system was to be established for the distribution of medicinal alcohol, and sale of denatured alcohol was allowed for industrial use. Among other provisions was one for the establishment of public schools, which were to be nonsectarian and were to be conducted in English. The right to vote was extended to all males of any race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Oklahoma was to have five representatives in addition to the customary two senators in Congress. Judicial districts and a Supreme Court were mandated. The Osage Indian Reservation, heretofore with no organized government, was to be a separate county. These items having been embodied in an appropriate instrument of government and approved by the people, Pres. Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Oklahoma a state on November 16, University of Oklahoma Press, Hill, A History of the State of Oklahoma, 2 vols. Copyright and Terms of Use No part of this site may be construed as in the public domain. Copyright to all articles and other content in the online and print Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History is held by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Copyright to all of these materials is protected under United States and International law. Users agree not to download, copy, modify, sell, lease, rent, reprint, or otherwise distribute these materials, or to link to these materials on another web site, without authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society. All photographs presented in the published and online versions of The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture are the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society unless otherwise stated. Citation The following as per The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition is the preferred citation for articles:

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## Chapter 4 : Cassius McDonald Barnes - Wikipedia

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Before statehood[ edit ] Idealized depiction a dryline Topographically, Oklahoma is situated between the Great Plains and the Ozark Plateau in the Gulf of Mexico watershed. The eastern part of the state is humid subtropical climate zone. The Dry line , an imaginary line that separates moist air from an eastern body of water and dry desert air from the west, usually bisects the state and is arguably an important factor in pre-historic settlement, with agrarian tribes settling in the eastern part of the state and Hunter-gatherer tribes settling in the western part of the state. The first recorded European to enter the region was Spanish Conquistador Hernando de Soto , who encountered many cultures of Caddoan languages -speakers, including the Caddo , Wichita , Pawnee , and Kichai peoples. The Caddoan Mississippi Culture[ edit ] Main articles: Between AD and , much of the midwestern and southeastern US including the eastern part of what is now Oklahoma was home to a group of dynamic cultural communities that are generally known as the Mississippian culture. These cultures were agrarian, their communities often built ceremonial platform and burial mounds, and trade between communities was based on river travel. There were multiple chiefdoms that never controlled large areas or lasted more than a few hundred years. Some villages began to gain prominence as ritual centers, with elite residences and platform mound constructions. The mounds were arranged around open plazas , which were usually kept swept clean and were often used for ceremonial occasions. The Caddoan homeland was on the geographical and cultural edge of the Mississippian world and had similarities to both Mississippian Culture and Plains Traditions. The Caddoan communities were not as large as other eastern and southern Mississippian communities, they were not fortified, and they did not establish large, complex chiefdoms; with the possible exception of the Spiro Mounds on the Arkansas River. As complex religious and social ideas developed, some people and family lineages gained prominence over others. This hierarchical structure is marked in the archaeological record by the appearance of large tombs with exotic grave offerings of obvious symbols of authority and prestige, such as those found in the "Great Mortuary" at Spiro. Southern Plains villagers flourished throughout central and western Oklahoma from to The inhabitants of these villages grew corn, beans, squash, marsh elder , and tobacco. They hunted deer, rabbit, turkey, and increasingly bison, and caught fish and collected mussels in the rivers. These villagers lived in rectangular thatched houses. However, it appears that the two people co-existed in the region for some time. In addition to Apache influence, the Wichita of southwestern Oklahoma appear to have had regular trade contact with tribes in current Texas and New Mexico. Both were hunter gatherers who used dogs to carry their belongings as they hunted from place to place. Both migrated from Canada to the Southwest around the time Francisco Coronado explored the Southwest and introduced the horse into the environment. And both tribes adapted their cultures to include the horse. Distribution of Tanoan languages before European contact. The pueblo languages are at the left; the nomadic Kiowa at right However, linguistically, they are quite different. The Kiowa language is part of the Kiowa-Tanoan language family. Linguists who study the history of languages, however, believe that Kiowa split from Tanoan branch over 3, years ago and moved to the far north. They had a yearly Sun Dance gathering and a chieftain who was considered to be the leader of the entire tribe. There were warrior societies and religious societies that made up the Kiowa society. Historically, the Apache culture seems to have been similar to the Pueblo peoples of the area. However, once the Spanish exercised their power over the area, traditional trade patterns between the tribes was disrupted and the Pueblo were forced to work Spanish mission lands and care for mission flocks. The Pueblo became subsistence laborers; they had fewer surplus goods to trade with their neighbors. The Apache quickly acquired horses, improving their mobility for quick raids on settlements. Louisiana New France Map showing British territorial gains following the Treaty of Paris in pink, and Spanish territorial gains after the Treaty of Fontainebleau in yellow. As such, the land that would become Oklahoma was under French control from 1763 as part of the territory of Louisiana New France.

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Colonization efforts primarily occurred in the northern aspects. France had already ceded the entire territory to the Kingdom of Spain in the secret Treaty of Fontainebleau; the transfer to Spain was not publicly announced until Spain, which ceded Spanish Florida to the British in the Treaty of Paris in order to regain its colonies in Havana and Manila, did not contest British authority over the eastern part of French Louisiana as it desired the western portion that was adjacent to its colony of New Spain. Spanish colonization efforts focused on New Orleans and its surroundings, and so Oklahoma remained free from European settlement during Spanish rule. In 1803, France regained sovereignty of the western territory of Louisiana in the secret Third Treaty of San Ildefonso. But, strained by obligations in Europe, Napoleon Bonaparte decided to sell the territory to the United States. Louisiana Purchase and Arkansas Territory[ edit ] Main article: The purchase encompassed all or part of 15 current U. Orleans Territory became the state of Louisiana in 1804, and Louisiana Territory was renamed Missouri Territory to avoid confusion. Arkansas Territory was created out of the southern part of Missouri Territory in 1804. Arkansas Territory thus included all of the present state of Oklahoma south of this latitude. On November 15, 1804, the westernmost portion of Arkansas Territory was removed and included with the unorganized territory to the north, and a second westernmost portion was removed on May 6, 1804, reducing Arkansas Territory to the extent of the present state of Arkansas. This new western border of Arkansas was originally intended to follow the western border of Missouri due south to the Red River. However, during negotiations with the Choctaw in 1804, Andrew Jackson unknowingly ceded more of Arkansas Territory to them than was realized. Then in 1805, after further negotiations, the Choctaw agreed to move farther west, but only by "200 paces" of the garrison on Belle Point. Spain ceded the Florida Territory to the U. The new boundary was to be the Sabine River north from the Gulf of Mexico to the 32nd parallel north, then due north to the Red River, west along the Red River to the 100th meridian west, due north to the Arkansas River, west to its headwaters, north to the 42nd parallel north, and finally west along that parallel to the Pacific Ocean. Informally this was called the "Step Boundary", although its step-like shape was not apparent for several decades. This is because the source of the Arkansas, which was believed to be near the 42nd parallel, is actually hundreds of miles south of that latitude, a fact that was not known until John C. It was also by this treaty that the land comprising the Oklahoma Panhandle was separated from the rest of the future state and ceded to the Spanish government. In the early history of the United States as a nation, a challenging issue was the management of frontier settlement in the traditional lands of the Native Americans. One approach to obtain land in or near the established states was to relocate tribes to unsettled territory further west. This approach became more formalized in 1830 via the passage of the Indian Removal Act. This act gave President Andrew Jackson the power to negotiate treaties for removal with Indian tribes living east of the Mississippi River. The treaty called for the Indians to give up their eastern land for land in the west. Those who wished to stay behind were required to assimilate and become citizens in their state. The goal was to provide ample lands for the relocation of Native Americans in the eastern states who did not wish to assimilate. The United States failed to protect the Creeks, and in 1838, they were militarily removed without ever signing a treaty. However, the treaty was declared illegitimate by a majority of the tribe. Those that survived the wars eventually were paid to move west. At the end of the two years only 2,000 Cherokees had migrated westward and 16,000 remained on their lands. This march westward is known as the Trail of Tears, in which 4,000 Cherokee died. In 1821, New Spain gained its independence and became the short-lived Mexican Empire, followed by the Mexican Republic in 1824. Thus Mexico was the new owner of the lands to the south and west of the U. Texas, a province within Mexico, declared its independence from Mexico in following the Texas Revolution. The Republic of Texas existed as a separate country from 1836 to 1845. Texas was annexed as a state into the United States in 1845, and the Mexican-American War followed from 1846 to 1848. The war was concluded by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in which the U. Statehood for Texas was politically charged, as it added another "slave state" to the Union, and the conditions for its statehood were not resolved until the Compromise of 1850. In addition to relinquishing claims on lands north of this parallel, Texas also had to give up its claim to parts of what is now New Mexico east of the Rio Grande, however in exchange the U. The southern boundary of the Kansas Territory was set at the

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37th parallel north , establishing the northern border of the future state of Oklahoma. In , as the American Civil War began, Texas forces moved north and the United States withdrew its military forces from the territory. Confederate Commissioner Albert Pike signed formal treaties of alliance with all the major tribes, and the territories sent a delegate to the Confederate Congress in Richmond. However, there were minority factions who opposed the Confederacy, with the result that a small-scale Civil War raged inside the territory. By late summer , Union forces controlled Fort Smith in neighboring Arkansas, and Confederate hopes for retaining control of the territory collapsed. Watie was the last Confederate general to give up; he surrendered on June 23, Most of the land in central and western Indian Territory was ceded to the government. Some of the land was given to other tribes, but the central part, the so-called Unassigned Lands , remained with the government. Another concession allowed railroads to cross Indian lands. Furthermore, the practice of slavery was outlawed. Some nations were integrated racially with their slaves, but other nations were extremely hostile to the former slaves and wanted them exiled from their territory. It was also during this time that the policy of the federal government gradually shifted from Indian removal and relocation to one of assimilation. In the s, a movement began by whites and blacks wanting to settle the government lands in the Indian Territory under the Homestead Act of They referred to the Unassigned Lands as Oklahoma and to themselves as "Boomers". In , in *United States v. Payne*, the United States District Court in Topeka, Kansas , ruled that settling on the lands ceded to the government by the Indians under the treaties was not a crime. The government at first resisted, but Congress soon enacted laws authorizing settlement. This prompted a judge in Paris, Texas , to unintentionally create a moniker for the area. Congress passed the Dawes Act , or General Allotment Act, in requiring the government to negotiate agreements with the tribes to divide Indian lands into individual holdings. Under the allotment system, tribal lands left over would be surveyed for settlement by non-Indians. Following settlement, many whites accused Republican officials of giving preferential treatment to ex-slaves in land disputes. The United States entered into two new treaties with the Creeks and the Seminoles. Under these treaties, tribes would sell at least part of their land in Oklahoma to the U. Boudinot argued that these Unassigned Lands be open for settlement because the title to these lands belonged to the United States and "whatever may have been the desire or intention of the United States Government in to locate Indians and negroes upon these lands, it is certain that no such desire or intention exists in

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## Chapter 5 : The formation of the state of Oklahoma () - CORE

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The Territory of Oklahoma existed for a brief seventeen years, yet its rapid expansion and development made its history unique. In the meantime, settlers quarreled over contested claims, with the most serious disagreements erupting among townsite companies whose opposing factions were frequently on the verge of violence. Temporary or "provisional" town governments tended to worsen rather than resolve these disputes. On May 2, , the Organic Act for the Territory of Oklahoma provided the customary framework of a territorial government. Voters would choose members of a house of representatives and a council, as well as an official delegate to the U. Nebraska laws were to apply until the territorial legislature passed statutes. Lawmakers anticipated additional lands would be attached to the original territory after American Indians on various adjacent reservations received allotments and their surplus lands became available for settlement. Benjamin Harrison appointed George W. Steele of Indiana as the first governor of the territory. After arriving in late May and organizing his office, Steele scheduled the election of the legislature for August 5. Later that month, when the chosen representatives arrived at Guthrie, the designated capital, Republicans held a slight edge. Preoccupied with location of prized institutions the university, the capital, the agricultural college, and the normal school the legislators neglected the passage of statutes until the waning days of the session. The stalemate and squabbling so disgusted Governor Steele that he resigned and returned to Indiana. The new territory grew dramatically, rising from 60, in to , in , an increase attributable in part to the work of the Cherokee Commission, or Jerome Commission, as it was commonly known. Created by Congress under the same legislation that had opened the Unassigned Lands, the commission convinced the Cherokees to give up their Outlet and persuaded various other Indian tribes in central and western Oklahoma to take allotments. The federal government then opened the surplus acreage to non-Indians in four additional land rushes: Unlike the original Unassigned Lands, settlers had to pay the government for their claims in these four subsequent land openings. In the U. The court awarded the region to Oklahoma, and settlers who entered that area simply filed their claims under the Homestead Act of . In federal officials held a lottery for free land, approximately thirteen thousand quarter sections of property once belonging to the Kiowa, Comanche, Plains Apache, Wichita, Caddo, and other affiliated tribes. Just before statehood the Territory of Oklahoma also added the Otoe-Missouri, Tonkawa, Kaw, and Osage reservations after virtually all of those lands were allotted to tribe members. New territorial citizens who arrived during the rapid expansion sought to secure their new homes and investments. They vied with each other for the multiplying normal schools, new county seats, and railroads for their communities. They faced a daunting struggle, especially during the economic depression and drought of the s. Following the opening of the Unassigned Lands settlers in the four subsequent land openings often failed to make even the minimum payments owed to the federal land office. Hundreds of citizens in these areas soon formed the Free Home League to push for federal legislation to expunge their outstanding debt. Republican territorial delegate Dennis T. Flynn gained their gratitude when he persuaded Congress to pass the Free Homes Bill in . National politics most directly affected the Territorial Era through the appointment of governors and other office holders. Only one Democrat, William C. Republicans held the presidency most of that period, resulting in the appointments of fellow Republicans Abraham J. Jenkins, , Thompson B. Continuous control of the executive branch by the Republicans led to a predictable intraparty strife, most notably in during the controversy over the mental sanitarium at Norman under a contract with the territorial government. Several leading party members held shares in the company, and Pres. Theodore Roosevelt dismissed Governor Jenkins for his suspected role. This type of internal wrangling among the Republicans did their party little harm in the election of the delegate to congress. One lone Democrat-Populist served in that elected position: Republicans otherwise monopolized the office: Despite the dominance of

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Republicans as governor and delegate, the two main parties had almost reached parity in the legislature by the end of the Territorial Era. In addition to the strictly local issues of free homes and placement of institutions, the governors and other elected territorial officials continually confronted national political issues and trends. In a majority of Oklahomans of all political parties rallied around the war against Spain. Consensus and harmony, however, disappeared when territorial citizens faced other issues, such as race. As elsewhere in the South, local politics edged increasingly toward Jim Crowism. In the early s black promoters, primarily from Kansas, started All-Black towns that initially thrived, and hundreds of other African Americans settled among white neighbors on farms. As black settlers prospered and as many moved into the predominately white towns, racial comity deteriorated. In the legislature passed an act requiring segregation in public schools. By then, many towns had passed notorious "sundown" ordinances prohibiting blacks from merely spending the night in those communities. Even the Republican Party drifted toward a lily-white policy as statehood approached. Regardless of race, the frontier life in the territory proved difficult for most citizens. In the rural areas the first settlers typically built dugouts, sod houses, or small hybrid shacks. Often their first crops faltered, and on some occasions turnips provided the only staple for many families. If these country residents survived the first few years and the drought and depression of the s, they then constructed wood-frame homes and planted trees and decorative plants around their living areas. Their children often attended school in buildings that also served as temporary churches and social centers. Their fellow Oklahomans in the towns enjoyed more amenities, but they also struggled to keep their communities afloat financially. In both urban and rural regions, neighborly kindnesses and cooperation often enhanced life. By the early s prosperity arrived, settlers could afford newer diversions and recreation, and the dependence on each other declined. Despite economic improvement, lingering problems frustrated many Oklahomans. The pressures of low commodity prices and high transportation rates angered many farmers during the era. They believed railroads unfairly controlled the market to the disadvantage of rural customers. The dramatic merger of large corporations at the turn of the twentieth century caused many territory residents to be fearful of "trusts" and monopolies. At the national level, beginning in muckrakers revealed corporate wrongdoing, and local newspapers began describing corruption and acts harmful to the people of the territory. As statehood approached, these concerns led the people of the Twin Territories Oklahoma and Indian territories to call for limiting corporations and enhancing the power of ordinary citizens. Most of all, a large majority of the people of the Territory of Oklahoma simply wanted the creation of a state that would enable them to mold their future. The Oklahoma Enabling Act of allowed the writing of the constitution, and the territorial period officially ended on statehood day, November 16, University of Oklahoma Press, *The Territorial Years Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society*, Hagan, *Taking Indian Lands: Gittinger, The Formation of the State of Oklahoma: Danney Goble, Progressive Oklahoma: Worth Robert Miller, Oklahoma Populism: Copyright and Terms of Use* No part of this site may be construed as in the public domain. Copyright to all articles and other content in the online and print Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History is held by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Copyright to all of these materials is protected under United States and International law. Users agree not to download, copy, modify, sell, lease, rent, reprint, or otherwise distribute these materials, or to link to these materials on another web site, without authorization of the Oklahoma Historical Society. All photographs presented in the published and online versions of *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* are the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society unless otherwise stated. Citation The following as per *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition is the preferred citation for articles:

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