

of the Order existed in the Cherokee Nation. The Chapter at Vinita was known as the Burlington Tribe, Lodge No. 22. In a picture of a gathering of the Lodge in 1895 Mr. White pointed out some of the men, namely: Ridenour, Southerland, Greenleather, Thomas, DeShene, Couch, Goodman, Foreman, Fox, et al.

Best remembered of the early physicians in Vinita is Dr. Foster Foreman, M.D., who practiced in Vinita from 1878 until his death in 1910. His memory is honored by one of the main streets in the town bearing his name. Dr. Foreman was of Cherokee blood.

Mr. White showed the survey map of 1897 of that part of the Cherokee Nation which became Craig County later. The survey was made in preparation for the allotment of land to the Indians. Mr. White tells of the use of "witness trees", whereon was cut the section, range, and township numbers. The survey books of the 1897 work are still preserved in the county courthouse. It is interesting to note at that time the cultivation tracts, pasturelands that the Indians lived on and worked. Before the surveying of the lands into sections, roads and trails ran at random, or wherever a road could be made, and streams crossed and hills bypassed. In later years roads were then built on the section lines.

Before statehood Vinita had a Federal courthouse where legal business of the Indian Territory for that area was conducted. On the distaff side there were murder trials, horse thief cases, land matters and disputes, etc. No mention is made of divorce cases in those days.

Mr. White showed a copy of an 1895 map of the Cherokee Nation, locating the Districts and the District Courthouses, as well as the frontier towns and settlements. The District Courthouses as then shown were as follows:

Coo-wee-scoo-wee District, at Claremore

Saline District, two miles southeast of Rose

Goingsnake District, at head of Christie Creek, west of Liberty Prairie.

Flint District, at the head of Big Sallisaw Creek

Sequoyan District, at the head of Skin Bayou Creek

Illinois District, on Greenleaf Creek, 10 miles east of Braggs.

Canadian District, on west side of Arkansas River at Webber Falls.

Delaware District, in Courthouse Hollow, 5 mi. southwest of Grove.

Panlequan District, at Panlequan.

Of the old Indian settlements that have now disappeared is Okoee. Once a busy Indian settlement and trading center located in the southeast corner of Craig County. The village took its name from another old Cherokee center in Tennessee called Ocoee, pronounced the same (O-ko-e). This early village is believed to have formed in the late 1840s or early 1850s. Mustang Creek flowed thru the little town and provided water power for its grist mill and the sawmill. A large general store stocked about everything the trading public required in that day. An early day post office also provided a means of outside communications from Okoee. On the creek at the edge of town was the Okoee Indian Fairgrounds. The annual fair week brought visitors from far and near and was a big event in the life of the countryside. Exhibits, rodeo events, ball games, and other events were enjoyed by all. Money, Sacks of grain, pork and beef meat were prizes given in the rifle shooting matches. No physical evidence remains today of what was once a town, the last old building was torn down by a whiteman rancher about 1950.