

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Timpson Chapel

May 30, 1939

Ben Franklin, Speaker.

"Too much credit can scarce be given the pioneers of Timpson Chapel, great memory center of this State. Especially those pioneers who have already crossed over that Mystic River to their great reward on yonder shore. They were the ones who helped to make modern Oklahoma, with its thriving cities, fertile fields and wealthy industries, an actuality. These were the men and women who remained undaunted by adverse circumstances of every nature -- storm and drought, poverty and ill health. To-day their memory rests with posterity, hallowed and honored through the years, it is in their memory that we have gathered here beneath the trees surrounding this quaint little church and cemetery in the woods.

"So to-day, on this the 30th day of May 1939, we gather at Timpson Chapel, much the same as the peoples of these United States are gathering at the various cemeteries and churches over the nation, to pay their heartfelt tribute to the honored dead.

"Varied and many are the Memorial Day services that are held each year in the various cemeteries of America, but perhaps none are more impressive and remembered longer by the participants, than these services held each year at this little church that is so dear to the hearts of those sons and daughters of those early pioneers now sleeping peacefully in Timpson Cemetery.

"To those who travel for many miles to spend a few moments at Timpson Chapel and those who come to spend the day, it is a day well spent and not soon forgotten. Especially so is the case this year when we mark the Silver Anniversary of those long flower parades. Memorial Day services have been held here for many, many years, but the distinctive custom of marching in a group, to place a small bouquet of flowers on all of the graves which now number 681 was started exactly twenty-five years ago.

"Looking backward through these twenty-five years of memories, an aura of sentimentality quite naturally attaches to that marvelous occurrence in the mental vista of those who participated in the preliminaries that led up to these Memorial Day services at Timpson Chapel. To-day, retrospectively let us review those by-gone days through the iris hued lens of memory that benignantly blurs the painful features of the picture and magnifies its pleasures.

"Those of you that make it a practice to return each year to Timpson Chapel are the ones whose blood tingles, whose eyes kindle and whose heartbeats are accelerated by joy in looking backward to those days when we were but small boys and girls attending Sunday School here.

"During the sixty-six years of Timpson Chapel existence many sad and many joyous happenings have occurred. Page after page could be written about this little church and cemetery; but the present, like an exciting experience of but a moment ago, is too much with us to tell what really happened. Hence, the historian who stays in his role leaves the present to the philosopher, the critic, and even to the prophet."