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Field Worker: Harry M. Dreyer
March 5, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. A. S. Heaney
101 N. E. Third St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

BORN Pontiac, Ill., 1867

PARENTS Beitman (Ohio)
(Ohio)

Mrs. A. S. Heaney was born in Pontiac, Illinois, in 1867.

She was a school teacher there, teaching both in the common schools and in the high school where she was principal. She came to Oklahoma in 1889 with her brothers and sister and each took a claim near Britton. Her brother came to Purcell, Oklahoma before the strip opened, with a party of friends, on the Santa Fe train and located his homestead north west of Britton. Mrs. Heaney and brothers and sister each had their patent signed by Grover Cleveland, of which they are proud.

Mrs. Heaney was very active in developing the school system in Oklahoma City. She organized the first school in Oklahoma City-- a private school for girls--and helped to organize the first public school system in Oklahoma City. She lived on her claim and went back and forth from it to teach school. She relates how schools were held in any space they could get and in parts of vacant buildings.

When Oklahoma City was opened by the run of 1889, the government reserved 160 acres of ground east of the Santa Fe railroad and north of the river in what is now Military Addition. The womens' organizations got together and sent Clark, a former Kansas Congressman to Washington to get a

reservation bill through, to turn 160 acres held for government troops for the purpose of preserving order in the city, to have the same turned to the city for school purposes. Hon. Sidney Clark attached a reservation bill to an appropriation bill in the form of a rider, and the bill was passed which turned 160 acres to the city for school purposes.

This was the beginning of the first public schools in Oklahoma City. Captain Styles headquarters were turned into the first high school in Oklahoma City. She recalls that bonds were voted on 160 acres of land due in twenty years which gave them the funds to start the school system. She said that women got together the day before election and made arrangements to take care of other women's children so they could go to the polls and vote for the bond issue. She states that many opposed the passage of the bond issue and it would not have passed if it were not for the women's votes.

Mrs. Heaney was Principal in the third ward public schools and E. E. Harlock was head of schools. When Mr. Douglas was principal in the High School, Mrs. Heaney was first assistant. She states that Oklahoma City was divided into four wards, and they agreed to put a school in each ward which would be satisfactory to all as they could see that Oklahoma City was going to be a large city. So the first public school northwest was in the middle of a corn field, and southwest was also in a cornfield. Another school was Invington school in Military addition. The property in Military addition was divided according to the provisions in the reservation bill and sold out for the development of public schools.

Mrs. Heaney, with her husband a quaker minister and her girl's friends, started a movement shortly after they were in Britton, and circulated petitions and took them to the state legislature, then located in Guthrie, and passed the prohibition bill barring liquor and saloons from Britton or any place within three miles of Britton, which was the first prohibition movement in Oklahoma. They did this because there were no officers in that city and people were in the habit of going there on parties.

Mrs. Heaney met Mr. Heaney in Oklahoma City and they were married here. Mr. Heaney built the apartment house on her lots at 101 N. E. Third Street, called the New England Apartments. Mr. Heaney was born in Ohio and was professor in Packard College of New York City prior to coming to Oklahoma. He came to Kansas in 1887 and purchased property on Douglas Avenue in Wichita, when the city was at its lowest ebb, there, for a bargain and worked as a court reporter. He sold his property at a large profit and came to Oklahoma City in 1889.

Mrs. Heaney organized the first W. C. T. U. in Britton, Okla. She and her lady friend then came to Oklahoma City and called a meeting of the women of Oklahoma City and founded the W. C. T. U. in the city and made the W. C. T. U. of Britton a branch. She also was an organizer of the Sorosis Club in Oklahoma City and brought concerts to Oklahoma City from New York City, by the backing of Mr. Heaney. They had to pay players in advance and made a profit of \$2,000 for the club.

She recalls being at a club meeting in Oklahoma City one evening when word came to the city that the Arapahoes were coming to town and many people came to the city with guns and what baggage they could collect in wagons and buggies for fear of an Indian attack.

So Captain Styles, in charge of the U. S. troops sent out a reconnoitering party and discovered that it was not an Arapaho Indian uprising but only a wedding which they were celebrating.

Mrs. Heaney has pictures of the group of teachers that organized the first public schools in Oklahoma City, (with their names on the back). She also has a picture of the first high school in Oklahoma City.

Her present home is the first home of the state Capitol when it was moved to Oklahoma City. Mr. Haskell and his friends gathered their records and fled from Guthrie the evening of the election. Mr. Haskell, the governor, went to the Lee Huckins Hotel, and friends came to the top floor of their (Heaneys') apartments and placed the seal of the state under the pillow of their bed, wrapped in soiled clothing.

So her friends called her next morning informing her that her home was the capitol of Oklahoma, as they had the seal there.

Many public officials of early statehood made their headquarters at the Heaney apartments when in the city.