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Field Worker: Jennie Selfridge

BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. Giles Crane Crme
Healdton, Oklahoma

BORN

In 1864 - Texas

Mrs. Giles Crane Crme came to Healdton from Saint Joe, Texas, fifty three years ago. Her husband J. W. Crme established the first store in Healdton. The lumber was hauled from Gainsville, Texas. At this time Mr. Crme, established a General merchandise and drug store. He also brought over two hundred fifty head of cattle and fifty mules.

John Mason ran the post office, which was probably called Mason. Later Crme took over the post office, and was asked to submit a name to the post office department for approval. He sent in three names one of which was Healdton. The reason for this name was that he was leasing land from an Indian family by the name of Heald. This name was accepted.

There were about one half dozen families living in a ten mile radius of Healdton. They were: Squire Cook, Pettitt, Frank Hodge, Grover Chase, and Dalve West. The same year Dr. Gordon came from Saint Joe with his family.

An old Indian named "Pete" carried the mail on a mule for the first six months. He traveled by the way of Mill Creek to Healdton, then to Spanish Fort, Texas. After Ardmore was established the mail was carried in an old "hack" from Ardmore. This was not Crme's first attempt to settle in the Territory. About eight or nine years prior to this time he settled at what is now known as Fooleville, although he remained there only seven years and went back to Saint Joe, married and bought out a dry goods store.

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Mrs. Orme recalls on three different occasions men came by the store at Healdton with prisoners to buy tobacco and rope. A bunch of men came by the store late one afternoon with three prisoners. They bought tobacco and a large supply of rope. The next morning they came back by the store and told the prisoners had been taken from them, and someone had better look for them. Some men went out and found all three of them hanging to the same limb on a nearby creek. They were horse thieves from Red River. On another occasion two men came by and bought rope, and asked Crme if he knew how to keep his mouth shut. The next morning a man was found only a short distance from the store hanging to a limb.

Another incident that created great excitement about that time was a crazy man. An old man living up the creek had a sick baby. Dr. Gordon was waiting on the baby at the time, and the old man suddenly went crazy. He came to town to try to kill Dr. Gordon, claiming that he was poisoning the baby. He also tried to burn the Orme home, and later tried to kill Mr. Crme for selling poison drugs. The baby got well, and the old man was found dead near his home.