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Howard, J. W.

Perry, Dan

Capital fight

Physicians--Oklahoma Territory

Field Worker: M. A. Nelson  
March 26, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Dr. J. W. Howard  
737 NorthEast 18th Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

STORY TOLD BY Mrs. J. W. Howard, (Wife)  
Maiden name Miss Belle Harrald  
Born Morgantown, Kentucky  
1836.

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Mrs. J. W. Howard's story "A Country Doctor".

My husband was a country doctor. He had practiced four or five miles from Morgantown, Kentucky for about twelve years.

He looked over the country in June 1889, and then went back to Kentucky.

Dr. Howard came here at the age of 33 years. He was in poor health at the time and intended to leave the practice of medicine. That the Oklahoma climate was so much better than that in Kentucky for him as proved by the fact that he was 88 years old when he died.

Dr. Howard returned November 17, 1889. I came the following March. Doctors were scarce in those days. When they discovered that he was a doctor, they began to come to his place out in the country.

He lived just a few weeks on the place. They they persuaded him to enter into politics. And he became a member of the first legislature. He helped secure the Normal school now called Teachers College at Edmond, and other state institutions.

When they had a bill up to locate the Capitol at

Historical Society, also a member of the legislature, took the bill to the Governor to sign. The opponents tried to get this bill away from him and followed after him. He hid it in a out field and they could not find it. This bill of course did not pass at that time.

Mr. Howard had been rather wealthy back in Kentucky. He had an interest in three or four banks. Some of this property he kept, so the family did not suffer want. He refused to enter the legislature again.

Dr. Howard returned to his practice. The roads were awful and they would call him in all kinds of weather and at any time, day or night. He sometimes went on horseback but usually went in a buggy. The doctors of that time were very few and some were not very competent. When they found that Dr. Howard was a good doctor they would send for him for long distances. He did a general practice with some surgery. Doctors did not specialise much in those days as they do now.

One night there came a summons from a party in Yukon. Father hesitated as a storm was just coming up. He did not think it wise to go. But the woman was about to die. A friend came to Father and said, "You go ahead I will stand good for the trip".

He reached the place, examined the woman and said "I think I can save her if I have a little help." There were three or four other doctors there. The woman had been sick two days and was in childbirth. They saved her, the child being

Some cases were of the type that in case of bad weather they could be put off. One night, however, there was a call for a case of urgent type to which the doctor always responded no matter what the conditions.

It was in March, one very cold <sup>night</sup>, my husband hitched his team and started out. As was the custom of the times my husband <sup>and</sup> were a mustache when he reached the place he tried to call the people. But his mouth had frozen shut and he had to kick the door to get in.

The boy's life was saved. While recovering and often a <sup>3</sup> after, the boy would inquire after the doctor's <sup>4</sup> health.

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