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Interview with Mr Frank Hudson

By Goldie Turner, Field Worker

April, 14, 1937.

Frank Hudson was born in 1872 and came to Oklahoma in 1894

When I first came to Pawnee I was a clerk in the Shepherd and Gordon Mercantile Co. It was located at the east corner of the block on the south side of the court house square. The indians came here to do a lot of their buying.

The first telephone company in this part of the state was organized by Mr John Noble and Mr J.N.Coulter who lived in Pawnee. The central office was in Perry and had branch lines to Red Rock, Pawnee and Stillwater. This was in 1895 or 1896.

Stage lines carried the mail and passengers to and from Perry which was the closest railroad town. The stage would leave here early in the morning and get to Perry in the evening. Another would leave Perry in the morning and arrive here in the evening.

Pawnee has furnished a number of state officials, Mr. W. Rambo who lived here was an early day State Treasurer. Bird S McGuire who was congressman lived in Pawnee a number of years. C.J. Wrightsman who was United States Commissioner also lived in Pawnee.

The Federal Court which was held in Pawnee in early days was one of the largest in the United States. It had jurisdiction over the Osage Nation as well as Pawnee

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There was a post office at the agency before Pawnee was organized but after the opening it was moved into the town and was located at the north east corner of the square, it was later moved to the south side of the square, then a few years later moved to the building at the north west corner of the square. It stayed there until a few years ago when it was moved to its present location.

The building of the Pawnee court house was very unique. A stock company was organized and with donated work very little cash was needed. It was a stone building and the rock were quarried and laid up by men who donated their time. When it was furnished it was rented to the county. The county then rented it to the Government in this way it was paid for in ten years and then turned over to the county. It was one of the first and largest court houses in the state. When it was first built public dances were held in the court room and the money derived from them was used to help pay for it.