

Indian-Pioneer History,
Grant Foreman, Director
211 Federal Building,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

an interview. with
Mrs. Eli McConnell,
North 11th, Street,
Frederick, Oklahoma.

Ruth Lee Gamblin,
Field worker,
May 12, 1937.

"FIRST CHILD BORN IN FREDERICK".

The first child born in Frederick was
Fredoline Pearson to D. B. and Sallie Pearson.

She was born on June 3rd, 1902, within
a hundred feet of the first store building in the city
and at that time there was not to exceed 50 people here.
There was no railroad nearer than Vernon, Texas, 30
miles south, and the mail was brought from there.

Dr. Lawton was the only physician and the
following persons had pitched their tents here at that
time and begun business; Harris and James, W.S. McCurdy
and D.B. Pearson. Legon and McHugh were in the lumber
business. There was also a drug store and livery
stable and the Gosnell Hotel had just been erected.
In the short space of a year Frederick made an increase
to a population of 1,000. Stores and other business
enterprises numbered 82. It was on the main line of a
railroad. Professional men of all lines had moved in.

There were 2 banks with good deposits.

At that time we had more crops marketed than in any of the other towns in what was at that time Comanche County.

We replaced our tents with good store buildings, built 3 drug store buildings, three hotels and in place of the one frame dwelling were cozy cottages and substantial dwellings.

At that time we had one church, the Baptist, and the money subscribed for another, the south Methodist. We had most of the secret and fraternal orders; also an excellent hall, one two-story brick bank and two other two-story brick buildings; 2 millinery stores with fine stocks of goods; and good stock of dry goods. Three of our business houses were doing a good jobbing business. We paid and unloaded more freight at our depot than any other place on the B.E.S. which is the Frisco railroad at this time. Our post office showed larger receipts and our merchants did a greater volume of business than in cities five times as large as us. We had no boom, the growth was commensurate with the volume of business done and as there was no doubt as to titles to our city property, so the lot values had increased.

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Frederick's petition to be made a city of the first class was granted March 7, 1907. The matter was presented to the Governor through delegate John M. Carr who was president of the city's board of trustees, the request being made by a majority of the legal voters, on the basis of census at that time which gave Frederick a population of 2,612.

Governor Charles H. Haskell issued a proclamation declaring Frederick a city of the first class and called a special election for Tuesday April 2nd for the election of city officers to serve until the next general election.

The officials chosen were Mayor, treasurer, marshal, police judge, attorney, street commissioner, 8 councilmen and 8 members of school board and treasurer of school board.

All male persons over 21 years of age, citizens of the United States who had resided in the territory of Oklahoma for 6 months and in the city of Frederick for 30 days

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were éligible to vote.

Robert Gosnell, C. A. Smith, J. M. Prince were named as judge and Andy Holloman and B.P. Sanders acted as clerks of the election.

I was elected Mayor of Frederick on April 4, 1907, which was the first election for Frederick. It passed off quietly. The Democratic ticket was the only one in the field and only 147 took the trouble to vote. The council rented rooms over the First National Bank as a city hall.