

1. D. M. C. 1915

Tulsa

Churches--Creek Nation

Loughridge, A. I.

Schools--Creek Nation

Haworth, W. P.

Hall, J. M.

Poston, Taylor

KERR, C. W. INTERVIEW.

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W. T. Holland, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History  
May 26, 1937

History of the First Presbyterian  
Church of Tulsa.

The first religious service ever held in Tulsa was conducted on the porch of Hall's store in 1883 by a Presbyterian Missionary by the name of Rev. R. M. Loughridge. For fifty years this pioneer missionary served the Creek Tribes. Although seventy years of age at the time of his visit to the present site of Tulsa, yet he made the trip from Wealaka Mission school, about twenty-five miles south of here, on horseback. Rev. Loughridge made a number of such trips, each time gathering a larger group of interested folks. In 1884 this group wrote to Rev. W. P. Haworth, a Presbyterian Missionary at Vinita, inviting him to visit them with a view of organizing a mission school and church. In due time these arrangements were worked out with the Board of Foreign Missions, and Mr. Haworth came as the head of the work.

The next year, 1885, at a meeting of the Indian Territory Presbytery at Parsons, Kansas, authority was given Mr. Haworth to organize a church in "Tulsey Town." By an act of the Presbytery, all members of the Wealaka Mission living at or near Tulsa were made charter members

of the new Tulsa church. Fifteen members, all Indians, were transferred by this act.

Taylor Postoak, a fullblood Creek, being an elder in the Wealaka church, became the first elder of the new church.

The late J. K. Hall was here at the time and helped largely with the new organization. He was made an elcer in 1886, and served as such until his death.

Rev. R. P. Haworth was pastor until 1888. After that date various pastors served for short periods of time, only one of whom is now living, Rev. E. Hubert Brayles of Philadelphia.

One of the early pastors, Rev. Leonard P. Davidson, who came in 1898, was called the following year by the Board of Foreign Missions to go as a missionary to the Philippine Islands. He thus became the first foreign missionary to be sent out from this church. He died shortly after getting his work organized.

The present pastor Rev. C. W. Kerr D. D., took up the work here February 10, 1900,

The church has been housed in four different buildings. The old mission building was used until 1899 when

a frame building was erected at Fourth and Boston. In 1911 a larger building was needed and the site chosen was at Seventh and Boston. This building is now used as a Chapel or annex to the present building which was erected in 1925.

During its over fifty years of history, there has been received into the church upon profession of faith 3,774 persons. Those received by letter 5,087 and those re-instated 778. This making a total of 9,639. Of this number, 9,458 have been received during Dr. Kerr's pastorate.

A total of 3,087 have joined other churches or been dropped. Two thousand eight hundred eighty-seven have been placed on the inactive roll, mostly people who have moved away and never asked for their letter. Death has claimed 495 active members. The present membership is 3,141 and the Sunday school roll is 2,159. During the fifty years the church has given to benevolences \$645,128--to the General Assembly assessments \$10,045--for congregational expenses, local charity and building funds, \$1,471,730.00, making a grand total of \$2,126,128.00

A list of the pastors follow:

Rev. P. . Loughridge, Missionary Aug. 1883-1884  
" J. . Daiment, Supply July 27, 1894  
" W. P. Haworth " 12-19-1885--11-27-1887  
" R. I. Loughridge " 6-3-1888--11-15-1891  
" R. J. Lamb " 11-22-1891--12-1-1893  
" D. N. Leerskoo " 12-24-1893--3-1-1896  
" L. H. Brayler Pastor 6-9-1896--2-27-1898  
" Leonard P. Davidson " 9-6-1898--12-16-1899  
" C. W. Kerr " 2-10-1900--to date

Will report on human interest stories and interesting incidents in the experience of Dr. Kerr, later.