

Uncey O. Moore, Supervisor
 Man-Pioneer History S-149

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 Field Representative
 May 29, 1937

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HISTORY OF OAK GROVE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Oak Grove Church is located five miles east, and one mile north of Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma. It was established about one-hundred ten years ago, by a Methodist Minister by the name of Brown, (his first name cannot be found). It is said that some of the first worshippers at Oak Grove were the fore-parents of some of the people who still live in the community, such families as the Bigby's, Adair, Palones, Gotts, Gourmleys, Williams and Albertys.

Some of the oldest people here, Aunt Nan Bigby (Nancy Jane Bigby), who is now almost one-hundred years old, says that she remembers the Oak Grove school house and Church about seventy years ago, and that, perhaps, one of the first Ministers of the Gospel to hold services here was a Minister by the name of Brown, then following him was a Minister named Ewing, for whom, later, Ewing Chapel school and Church was named, and that being only about two-miles from Oak Grove Church.

One of the reasons for the Church being located where it is, is, perhaps, there is one of the best springs of water to be found anywhere near. It is known as the Adair Spring. This spring is also near the former home of John Thompson Adair, and the present home of his son, Sam Houston Adair, who is now nearly one-hundred years old, having been reared here in the house of his father which has been built one-hundred three years. It is a beautiful two-story house, built very much like the ones found on the old southern plantation.

There is a barn on the Adair place they say was built in time of slavery, and was built by negro slaves.

The youngest daughter of Sam Houston Adair, now lives in the above mentioned house, Mrs. Ray Homfree.

I have made a close study of the character of the people in this neighborhood, also the social life of the people. Some of the people in each generation in this neighborhood were God-loving people, having shown this by establishing Churches, schools and Sunday School.

Their social life consisted of attending Church, singing, school, also it is said that weddings were great affairs in early days.

Feasting was quite a sport, also means of supplying the table with much food. I am told, also, that such as dances was frowned on by most people in this community.