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May 10, 1937

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History of the Episcopal Church  
in Oklahoma, Oklahoma

In the early part of the year 1895, the Rev. Francis  
Lay Brook was elected to the office of Bishop in the Episco-  
palian Church for St. Louis and was given the Indian  
Territory and Oklahoma as his diocese. At that  
time, the work in Indian Territory and Oklahoma had been

under the direction of Bishop Joice of Arkansas. As he  
was a man advanced in years, he could not give it the  
attention and time that a rapidly developing country de-  
manded. On hearing that the Indian Territory was to have  
a Bishop of its own, Mr. Fred Morris, a resident of Mus-  
kogee who had recently moved from Lawhuska, where he had  
been employed as clerk in the Indian Agency and occupied  
the same position in Muskogee, wrote at once and invited  
Bishop Brook to pay Muskogee a visit. The Morris family

consisted of himself, wife and sister, Miss Mary, and they  
were members of that church and were very anxious for the  
establishment of an Episcopal Church in Muskogee.

On February 25, 1893, Bishop Brook paid his first  
visit to Muskogee. The first service was held in the home  
of Mr. Morris and four children were baptized. On the

evening of the same day he held services in the First Methodist Church, South, at which Rev. D. L. Baker was the guest. An organization was formed at that time and Rev. Gustaf Berfer

(Dannan) was placed in charge. However, he did not remain long as he became a member of the Young Catholics Club and united with that church. He went down to Italy where his father was an art student in Nov. 1, 1904.

Henry Udor (Priest) was sent on to start the little congregation and at once began to formulate plans for constructing a house of worship. A lot, located in the 200 hundred block on South Fourth Street, was given by Fr. Robert L. Owen. The little group began in earnest to secure funds for the building. Another problem that confronted Mr. Udor, was a place in which to live. He selected a location in

the northwest portion of the town and built a substantial cottage at his own expense. The house is still being occupied and stands on Pon-Du-Lee between 13th and 14th Streets. The place was known Udorville. As it was so far from town, it meant an afternoon trip when you went to call.

Among the charter members of the church were Colonel and Mrs. D. M. Wisdom and their family. Mrs. M. L. Bragdon and sister, Mrs. Morris, daughters of the late Judge James R. Shackelford, the first United States Judge of the Indian Territory.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Morton Rutherford, Mrs. Mary Pearson,  
Mrs. and Mrs. M. H. Williams, the Boren Family, Mr. and Mrs.  
Phillip Ford, Mrs. Frank Swift and Mr. George Williams.

The ladies realized that their help was going to be very  
greatly needed in the financing of the new church and  
especially in furnishing and equipping. They held a meet-  
ing and organized a Ladies Guild of which Mrs. Braddon,

a young bride at the time, was the first president. Funds  
were raised by various means. Dinners in a vacant building  
downtown, which everyone employed in stores and shops,  
always attended. Twenty-five cents was the price for a  
chicken or turkey dinner. Strawberry and ice cream suppers  
during the summer were quite popular and always a financial  
success. The tables were always profusely decorated with

flowers from the gardens of friends. Bazaars were often  
held in connection with the dinners and many beautiful and  
useful articles were sold. A flower show given at the  
home of Mrs. D. M. Wisdom on North Cherokee Street, was  
the first to be held in Muskogee. She was the proud pos-  
sessor of a small greenhouse and took great pleasure in  
raising flowers. An afternoon tea in connection with the  
flower show was also given and a silver offering taken, from

which several dollars was realized. Home talent shows were another successful means of raising money. Among other things given at the Turner Opera House was Evangeline, a very beautiful production well rendered. A Trades Carnival was also given there in which all trades people and business houses were represented. That would have proven a great success, financially, had not the men and women who were promoting it, taken their departure between suns and with them went all the proceeds they had in their possession.

However, the receipts were satisfactory. Many of the young people of other churches took part in these entertainments.

The first choir was composed of Mrs. Robert Owen, Mrs. M. L. Bragdon, her sister, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Billy

Owen. As services were held on week nights, members of other choirs gave their assistance. Among them was Dr. and Mrs. Bonnell. A small but beautiful edifice was completed and occupied during Mr. Tudor's ministry.

The first wedding that took place in the new chapel was that of Mr. William Nathaniel Patterson and Miss Catherine Rector, April 29, 1900. On February 1, 1897, Mr. Tudor resigned and the following summer, Mr. George Biller, a student at Berkley, California Divinity School (a Lay Leader)

was sent to the ... ..

1897, ... ..

Church in ... ..

of ... ..

Lequah belonged to the ... ..

one minister, ... ..

services each month, the ... ..

VICES. On ... ..

consecrated by Bishop ... ..

McAlester delivering the sermon. In ... ..

ing committee, composed of ... ..

and Mrs. Mary Pearson was appointed and proceeded to make

plans for building a rectory. Having previously purchased

a lot in the 100 block on South ... ..

by a Creek Citizen and a deed from the Creek Nation, signed

by Secretary Hitchcock, was secured. The contract was let

for a six-room house to cost \$1000 and was completed Dec. 1st,

1898, and immediately occupied by the rector and his family.

The Bishop had contributed \$250, the rector \$67, the Ladies

Guild \$664. There remained a debt of \$500. A cistern was

built at the cost of \$115. A wood-shed \$80 and other im-

provements bringing the entire cost to \$1500.

At the annual Parish meeting in April, the following

vestrymen were elected: Mr. George Williams, S. M. Rutherford, E. J. Evans, Mr. William Boren, Billy Owen and Dr. Harry C. Rogers.

At this time the ladies reduced the debt by \$100. From September 1898 to September 1899, the Mission raised, for all purposes, the sum of \$1572.50. During that year, Vinita was detached from the work and placed in another Mission. September 1st the rectory debt was \$340. In addition, the construction of a good fence at the cost of \$50. At a Parish meeting held March 1st, 1900, Bishop Brook added to the vestry, Ira B. Kirkland, Guy P. Cobb and Jana Kelsey. On July 1901, the Ladies Guild paid the last indebtedness on the rectory. In 1902, April 22nd, Rev. Francis resigned to accept a call in Minnesota. On May 1st, 1901, the Ladies Guild began raising money for a new church building, as the congregation was fast out-growing the little church. At the urgent request of Bishop Brook, Mr. Francis remained until the middle of May when he accepted a call, Chanute, Kansas, resigning from the Minnesota work call. On February 1st, 1903, Rev. A. C. Perry of West Missouri came as pastor to Grace Church. During the year 1904 under the efficient ministry of Mr. Perry, the membership was doubled and the Mission organized into a Parish and accepted as such by the

Station The Great Northern Co. Dept. of Building

April 1900

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst.

in relation to the proposed plan for the new station building at the

above mentioned station.

The plan submitted to me on the 27th inst. has been carefully

examined and I find it to be in accordance with the requirements

of the Board of Directors of the Great Northern Co. in this respect.

It is my pleasure to advise you that the plan is approved and

will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

Wm. H. ...

cc. ...

Very truly yours,

To move the entire building to the new site...

and the ...

and ...

the sum of \$10,000 and this will be ...

that year, where the beautiful office of ...

architecture now stands. The plan was designed by Mr.

McCaw, a Scotchman, who came to Muskogee from Glasgow



