

TURNER, GOLDIE.

JENNINGS, OKLAHOMA.

7693

Goldie Turner, Interviewer  
Indian-Pioneer History  
September 28, 1937

Material on the settlement of the  
town of Jennings. Information gathered  
from different persons.

The little town of Jennings four miles south of  
Mallett was homesteaded by George Jennings, but the govern-  
ment soon bought it for a town site and gave it the name  
Jennings for the homesteader, instead of the outlaw by that  
name as some people seem to think. Jennings is located  
only three-quarters of a mile north of the south line of  
the Cherokee Strip, which borders on the Creek Nation.

This seemed a good location for a town and in a few  
years had several hundred inhabitants. A general store,  
ran by Mr. G. Van Eman was established soon after the  
opening and in a short time there was another store, a  
blacksmith shop, and several saloons.

The first winter a school house of native lumber was  
built by popular subscription, and a short term of school  
was held. The next year and years following a full term  
of eight months was held. The original building is still  
standing although a more modern building has been built and  
used for many years. In 1902 a Junior College called the

TURNER, GOLDIE.

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7693

2

for a few years but was soon discontinued.

The first bank in Jennings was started in 1898 with Mr. W. E. Adams as president.

Until the railroads were built through, Jennings got its mail from Pawnee by stage. The stage, leaving Pawnee early in the morning reached Jennings about noon, then made the return trip in the afternoon.

In 1903, two railroad companies built roads through the town, the M.K.T. and Frisco roads. This brought added business and growth. Hotels were built and for a time it seemed that Jennings would be a large town. It also served a large farming community.

The Jennings newspaper, called the Jennings News was established in 1905 by Mr. R. Stewart and has been in continuous publication ever since in the same building and by the same editor.

Oil was discovered near Jennings in 1905 and for a while there was quite a boom there. There have been several booms since that time, but Jennings now derives most of its business from the farming district.