

TURNER, GOLDIE

QUAY

#7988

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Interviewer
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History Of Quay, Oklahoma.

The town of Lawson, now Quay, was established about 1904, when the Santa Fe Railroad Company built its line through there. The railroad track was built through the homestead of Mr. Lawson, which was just across the line of the Cherokee Strip in Old Oklahoma. Mr. Lawson sold a part of this land to the railroad company for a townsite and a station and sidings were built. The station was named Lawson for the homesteader. A little later, parts of the homesteads across the line in the Strip were also platted into the town, the main street being the dividing line of the counties.

When the post office was established the name Lawson was so like Lawton, the name of the town was changed to Quay.

The first hotel was built and managed by Mr. Lawson. It was a two story frame building, about three blocks west of the railroad station. During the early years it was always filled. It was the only hotel there until oil was discovered. Mr. Lawson managed the hotel only a few years and then sold it to Mr. H. E. Root, who managed it until a few years ago.

The first school building was a small frame one room building which was replaced by a two story frame structure, located on the south side of Main street, in Payne County. About 1920, a large modern brick building was built by Pawnee County about three blocks north of the old building.

The first church established in Quay was the Christian Church but was a community ^{building} and housed most of the social gatherings.

There is a cave north of town that is supposed to have been a rendezvous for the early day outlaws. At any rate they were often reported to be in the town but never caused any trouble.

The little town of Quay was a typical little country village until oil was discovered there, about 1904. Then there was a boom for several years and many new business buildings were erected. After the oil field ceased to be productive the buildings were torn down or abandoned until now there is only one grocery store. The post office and a small drug store are housed in separate private homes. It is one of the ghost towns that the oil business has made.