

WILSON, L. W. FOUNDING OF SHAMROCK. 12683
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L. W. Wilson
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Founding of Shamrock.

Few of the old people in Shamrock are now living in this village proper. This town and its founders have back of them a heritage of historical incidents and events; the deeds of pioneers overcoming obstacles and rising to position and power and then, with the drilling of oil wells some eight or nine miles to the north, seeing their population dwindle away on that account, the people taking up their abode near the oil wells, causing the town of Drumright to be founded and Shamrock to be known as a suburb of that city.

Shamrock was once buzzing with activity and few people today can realize that quiet, settled little Shamrock now regarded as a suburb, was once a flourishing metropolis with a population aggregating between twenty-five to thirty thousand souls. Its trade territory, fairly estimated, was fifty thousand and it was one of the largest cities in the state of Oklahoma.

Early Days at Shamrock.

Shamrock was started as far back as 1911 when a man named J. M. Thompson started a general merchandise store, which was located on the site of the present Shamrock Cemetery. Thompson

was a pioneer, having come to Oklahoma from a suburban town, near Chicago, Illinois, known as Shamrock.

Into the vicinity of the Thompson store came men seeking fortunes to be found in liquid gold (oil). It was a wild cat territory and in these wild cat-activities oil wells were found here and there on the hills and in the valleys and, like all booms in oil, people began to flock to this vicinity. Homes were built, new stores opened and along came doctors to care for those who became ill or injured as well as attorneys to care for all legal proceedings. Thompson, the first merchant and pioneer, saw the need of a post office and made application to the Government for a post office to be established on the land, which was a Creek Indian's allotment. In Mr. Thompson's application for the post office he submitted three names, one of which was Shamrock, he having remembered the suburban village in which he lived in the city of Chicago, Illinois.

Everything from the family dog and cat to the water tower in Shamrock bore an Irish name for much Irish brogue was in evidence here in those days. Today the Irish brogue is extinct and seems to have passed away, having vanished with the population.

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In scanning over the map of this city that used to be, one will find that the main street was named Tipperary and streets that intersected Tipperary Street were Cork, Dublin, Bontry, St Patrick, Killarney, Blarney and Terry. It is said that the first freight train that passed through the city of Shamrock hauled a large stone weighing several hundred pounds which was unloaded and taken to the center of the town. To follow out the Irish motif, the stone was christened the Blarney Stone. The owner and publisher of the first newspaper gave it the fitting name of "Brogue".

It was twenty-one years ago 1916 when Shamrock first became a city and the old residents of this once little city now review with pride those days when everyone in their domain was working, contented and satisfied with life and little thought then that such a thing could happen to cause this promising city to vanish as it has from existence.

One by one the pioneers of Shamrock are drifting down the tide of life. Those who still live hold fast to the memories of the by-gone days of the little clap-board shacks that sprang up, as one might say over night. One by one, as the city of Shamrock

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began to cease activities, the old pioneers started to find homes elsewhere. Some followed the fields (oil fields) developing in Cushing, Drumright, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and elsewhere. Those in the mercantile and professional business had to leave and became engaged elsewhere. Today the once twenty-five thousand inhabitants are scattered over the entire nation, leaving Shamrock only a ghost town.