

INDEX CARDS

Openings--Old Oklahoma
Hennessey, at
Hennessey
Hospitality--ioneer



Interview with Mrs. C. T. Clay.
Hobart, Oklahoma.

By Glen F. Curd, Field Worker.

May 13, 1937.

.....

At the age of 11 years, Mrs. C. T. Clay came to Oklahoma with her parents, arriving at Pond Creek just two days before the run. Her father, Harris Finley, made the run from Buffalo Springs on a stage coach, and when the coach was about 1½ miles out, he rolled off and began to drive his stakes.

Her father built a log house on this claim and started farming. He had staked a claim on the Chisholm Trail, and, being an ex-soldier he did not have to stay on the claim all of the time. But until he secured the title he and my brother took turns in staying there.

My mother Priscilla Finley, was a noted speaker. She "stumped" Kansas for prohibition, going on, also, into some of the Southern states.

The first exciting occurrence was the Cheyenne Arapaho up-rising. General Miles was in command of the Government Troops.

Mr. Pat Hennessey was massacred in battle, and I have heard General Miles tell that they buried Mr. Hennessey only in a shallow grave. But after the battle they went back and found and buried him properly, having only hatchets to dig the grave with. Billy Malally found a stone and carved the name of Pat Hennessey on it and put it at the head of the grave. This grave was between our house and town. We were only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from town and there were some canyons just before you entered town from the North. There had been so much talk about the massacre so the family of us were looking to find Mr. Hennessey's grave some time later, and my brother, Harry L. Finley, was kicking around in the grass and found the stone that was the marker for the grave. My father said there should be a better marker there to better identify the place. So he took it on himself and went back to the house and got a board and carved the name more plainly on it and placed it where it could be seen. A Mrs. Rhodes, a writer for the Daily Oklahoman, an Oklahoma City Newspaper, during

the year 1927, made the statement that a Mr. Dohenev found the burial place and the body was moved to the Hennessey Cemetery. The board was put there in 1874, and was found in 1896 by Mr. Dohenev, and the remains were moved at that time.

As we were living near the town of Hennessey we put up the first house in the town, or that later became a town. My brothers, 13 and 15 years old, hunted all over the country for bones and sold them to the Rock Island Railroad Agent to get money to live on.

Before coming to the Territory my mother bought a bolt of muslin cloth and had a few table cloths that she kept in reserve fearing that she wouldn't have anything like that out here, or couldn't get any. So, one night just before Christmas, we had finished supper and as the distance was great and no one lived close any where, we were surprised to hear a knock on the door. We went to the door and the man who was there wanted mother to go to his wagon and take care of his wife. They were just traveling

through and the stork was about to overtake them. So mother went. She was a very large woman but she climbed right over the wagon wheel into the wagon which was the only home they had, and twins were born, but one died. Mother used part of her muslin to line the coffin for the baby. The mother and the other baby got along O. K.

Never had^{ed} any experience with Indians, always got along with them.
