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JAMES PARKINSON

Son of John Macluhon Parkinson and Experience (Craycraft)

Parkinson was born near St. Augustine, Fulton Co., Ill., May 18, 1840
He was the 9th of 11 children.

The family moved to Iowa in 1846.

He came to Kan. about 10 mi. from Leavenworth in 1855. He soon went to work for Carney and Fuller, who were freighters across the Plains to Denver and Santa Fe. They needed a husky lad to look after the 400 oxen used in freighting. At night the 400 were turned loose to graze. It was his job to herd them all night, and have them all rounded up for the teamsters at day light next a.m. During the day, he would turn his pony loose to follow the train, while he hopped in a wagon to sleep.

Two round trips were made each year. While on the second trip in 1858, the Calif. Gold Fever struck the teamsters, when Denver was reached. Every man threw down his whip, quit work, and started for Calif. No new drivers could be secured. He re'cd. orders to take charge of the oxen and get them through the winter. This he did by driving them near the present town of Golden, into a broad valley, and brought them back to Denver in the spring ready for the return trip to Leavenworth, as new teamsters had been secured. For three months during that winter, he had not seen a human being.

When the Civil War broke out, he was yet with this Co. In the meantime, Carney had become Gov. of Kan. but the business firm remained the same, and had a Gov't. contract to furnish beef to the Soldiers at Ft. Riley, and the Indians who had gone into Kan.

from the South (I.T.).

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He was married to Emma Jane Randall in Le Roy, Coffey Co. Kan., June 28, 1863.

Tried farming one year. This first venture in the Mercantile business begun in 1864, in partnership with Mr. Fuller on the Caney River in So. Kan. where he contracted an almost fatal illness, from which he was a long time in recovering, meanwhile they quit business.

Was a member of the State Militia during the Civil War. In one skirmish near Leavenworth, his horse was shot from under him.

When the M. K. & T. RR. was building South from Chetopa Kan., he had the contract for grading the road bed for 10 mi.

This first trip in the vicinity of where Okmulgee now is, was in 1866. He was a witness of an Historic event. This being the meeting of the first common council of the Creeks after the Civil War, who had become estranged and separated during the War; some going North, the others South. The former were known in later years as the Loyal Creeks.

The Council met at Dripping Springs, S.W. of the present location of Okmulgee. Has since been frequently used by citizens of Okmulgee for picnics. Maj. Dunn, Ind. Agent, J. Brown Wright, and himself, constituted the party sent by the Gov't. to attend the Council.

About 1870 he and an older Bro. Johnathan, decided to open a store in I.T. at Honey Springs, near the present site of Checotah, soon moving to Creek Agency, about 3 mi. west of the present location of Muscogee. The original site of Muscogee was 1 mi. north

of the present one. J. S. Atkinson and J. A. Patterson were also operating stores at Creek Agency. In 1871 the location of Muscogee was changed, and Atkinson and Patterson moved to the R.R. The Parkinsons decided to locate in Okmulgee, and Creek Agency was abandoned as a trading Post. In 1872 James obtained a Gov't. license to operate a Mercantile business. This license was maintained uninterruptedly until the Curtis Bill became effective in 1898, causing the abolishment of Gov't. licenses. Their location was where the Penny Store now is. Later they divided the business, Johnathan taking the store, James the cattle. The store burned in the early 80's. Johnathan returned to Kan. His first partnership in Muscogee was with Harry Kincaid in 1875. after 2 years, sold his interest to a Bro. in law of Kincaids. He then in 1877 formed a partnership with J. E. Turner, which continued until 1882, when he sold his interest to W. S. Harsha.

In 1881 he bought the store of Clarence W. Turner (Son of J.E.) in Okmulgee, located where the Parkinson-Trent bldg. now stands. From that time until he sold his interest in the Parkinson-Trent Mer. Co. in 1908 he was almost continuously in the Mer. business in Okmulgee, not however in the same location all that time.

The Frisco R. R. having built west from Vinita, he decided in 1883 to build a store at Red Fork, which was the terminus of the R.R: a few years later, it was built on to Sapulpa. In 1892 the R.R. was building both south and west from Sapulpa. He sold his business and moved his family to Wagoner, where he also had business interests. He and W. E. Gentry had a store in Checotah for some time. Later closed all business interests

except in Okmulgee, closed that in 1908 at which time he retired from active business. Was the 1st Pres. of 1st Natl. Bank of Wagoner, the 2nd Bank organized in I.T. Was Foreman of 1st Grand Jury held in I.T. after U. S. Court was established.

Died in Wagoner, Oct. 7, 1916.

His Wife died in Wagoner Aug. 24, 1908. They had four children:

Willford----died in infancy.

Terry A.----died July 5, 1927.

Maude L. Brazeel---living in Okmulgee.

A. Ben-----died May 25, 1936.

Charles Craycraft Parkinson, born Sept. 5, 1824

Johnathan Parkinson, born Mch. 11, 1826

Sarah Ann Parkinson, born Feb. 26, 1828

Samuel Vanata Parkinson, born Nov. 13, 1829

All in Rich Hill Township, Green Co. Pa.

William Parkinson, born Mch. 30, 1832

Calvin Babbitt Parkinson, born Mch. 10, 1834

In Center Township, Green Co. Pa.

Elizabeth Parkinson, born Dec. 23, 1835

West Union, Marshall Co. Va.

Minerva Parkinson, born Mch. 18, 1838

James Parkinson, born May 18, 1840

John Macluhen (?) Parkinson Jr., born July 28, 1842

St. Augustine, Fulton Co. Ill.

Martha Antoynette Parkinson, born Dec. 6, 1844

Warren Co. Ill.

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