

FURTHER FACTS ABOUT NOWATA COUNTY

(By Mary Riley Roberts, Nowata, Okla.)

The famous Indian personage of Nowata County, from an educational view point was Wm. Vann Carey, who served as Board of Education at different times during his life time, and was clerk of the Cooweescoowee District in 1885-1887. Cooweescoowee District was the largest of the nine districts in the Cherokee Nation, all of Old Tulsa was in Cooweescoowee district including Owasso meaning in the Cherokee language "By Myself", on account of being so far out in the open spaces before Statehood.

LENAPAH

Lenapah, Oklahoma is located in the Northern part of Nowata County, twelve miles North of the City of Nowata on the St. Louis, Iron mountain and Southern rail road.

It is surrounded by a good farming community and has its share of oil and Natural gas. One of the earliest oil fields discovered in this section of the State was located just west of Lenapah and at the time of its discovery it was regarded as being one of the most profitable fields in that Neighborhood. Since the arrival of the rail road Lenapah has been a good shipping point. Quite a number of well developed farms adjacent to the town assists in making it a busy little place.

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Considering the size of the town Lenapah has its business places and several churches and an unusually good Public school System.

H. C. Shufelt & Son were the leading Merchants at the time of the Indian territory, carrying a full and complete line of merchandise. They came to the Indian territory in the year of 1882 from Johnson Co., Kansas and located on a farm of about 500 acres.

In 1890 they branched into the mercantile business in a ~~small building which they increased in size as their business~~ grew in volume.

In the fall of 1892 they were robbed by the noted out-law Henry Starr who got \$300 the best of them in the deal.

The 9th of December 1893 they were again robbed by the ~~Notorious Cherokee Bill (Whose real name was Crawford Goldsby)~~ and Verdigris Kid, two of the most hardened Criminals this Country has ever produced.

DELAWARE

Delaware Oklahoma is located on the Iron Mountain Rail-road about five miles North of Nowata City. It also has profited by the discovery of oil and natural gas and is now a prosperous little city.

It has built up a good public school system, including a good high school department. It maintains several churches and Sunday Schools. Delaware has a system of Water-Works and several stores. It is near the Verdigris river and is a good trading point for the prosperous farmers of that section of the country.

The Delawares were the Indians with whom William Penn made his famous treaty in 1662. After many wars and many moves westward most of the remaining Delawares settled in the vicinity of Nowata County, then the Indian Territory in 1867.

Delaware Oklahoma was named for the Delaware Indians who lived in this vicinity. A post-office was established here in 1898.

WATOVA

The town of Watova is located just South of Nowata about six miles on the Iron Mountain railroad line. Coal is found near the little town. Before Statehood its few stores were raided single-handed by Cherokee Bill. One of the most hardened criminals the country has ever produced, robbing one store and taking the manager with him, proceeded to the second where he like wise collected the store operator, he continued this until he wiped Watova clean with one sweep in broad daylight.

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J. B. Heady was first Store Manager of the town during Indian Territory. He also served six years as Deputy U. S. Marshal. While on the Marshal force he rode, with the since noted, Dalton boys. Since Statehood though, Watova has prospered. It has several Stores and filling Stations, and an unusually good School System, & Churches.

WANN

The prosperous little town of Wann is situated on the North Western part of Nowata on a branch of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, extending from Parson, Kansas, to Oklahoma City.

It has a population of about five hundred supports several Churches a bank, several good general stores and a good public school System, both grade school and a high school.

INDIAN GAMES

The game of Indian ball would probably never be popular with the average American audience. It is a modified form of lacrosse, hockey, or shinny, together with a sprinkling of football thrown in. It is much quieter than either of the other games. Nine men constituted a team and the players, wear red or blue cloths over their heads or about their waist to indicate the team to which they belong. Each player is provided with two ball sticks made of hickory, thirty six inches long, the wood being curved or bent into a loop at the bottom.

A piece of buck skin wound back and forth across the loop constitutes a net by which the ball is kept from falling through the loop. The aim is to pick the ball up with two sticks and throw it against a board at the end of the ball ground. The ball used in this game is about the size of a golf ball. Indian women will often time carry buckets of water and first aid supplies for their sons who are engaged in the games.

INDIAN DANCES

The Indians like many of his white brothers are fond of dancing and like them too, he indulges in many kinds of dancing. Many of the Indian dances, however, passes a religious significance. Some of the nature of supplications, for rain, for good crops, for the recovery of a sick friend for prevention of scourge, or for a victory in battle. In the case of sickness or a threatened plague, the medicine man begins the ceremony by gathering certain roots and herbs, known only to him, from which he compounds his medicine. He sprinkles this mixture around the premises and on the bed of the sick Indian. This is followed by feats of magic or legerdemain in the presence of the patient, partaking some what of the nature of mesmerish. At the close of the third day a feast is served to the invited guests, which is followed by dancing to the music of the

tom-tom;. The dancers accompanied by low chanting of voices, the dance proceeds and frequently continues throughout the entire night. If the patient is not seriously ill; the excitement of the occasion may induce him to leap from his bed and participate in the dancing whereupon he is declared cured by the medicine.
