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Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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Field Worker

Interview: George W. Mowbray, Jr

OLD TIMERS

George W. Mowbray, Jr. says his father, George W. Mowbray, Sr., was a pioneer settler in Tulsa and that he was born in Melton Morbray, Leicestershire, England, July 5, 1847 and was educated in the Grantham (English Grammar) School. At the age of 18 he became a preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and later came to the United States. He states that on the first Sunday in November, 1869, his father preached his first sermon in Binghamton, New York and that he remained in charge of the church at that place for six years. From there he went to Owego, New York, which would be in the year of 1875, and that he remained there for one year, leaving there to go to Elmire, New York, where he remained for a period of nine years. He moved to McCune, Kansas in 1886 and remained there for one year, moving to Tulsa in 1887. At the time of his arrival in Tulsa, the white people were so few in number that every man, woman and child in a radius of one and a half miles would not number over 125. Mr. Mowbray says his father was the first pastor of the M. E. Church in the Creek Nation and that he took the first census of the City of Tulsa. Also that he was the fifth Mayor of the city and the first president of the Commercial Club, which was organized during his administration as Mayor. (The Commercial Club later became the Chamber of Commerce.) The first census was made in 1890 and he served as Mayor in 1903-4. At one time he served as president of the Tulsa School Board for a period of two years and for the last fifteen years of his life he owned and operated an Undertaking Establishment. He also was the sole manufacturer of the Egyptian Cement Vault. He died January

, 1910.

George W. Mowbray, Jr. says he was born March 25, 1871, in Binghamton, New York, later going to Williamsport, Penn. and that he came to Tulsa from Williamsport in 1899. His first work here was in a saddle shop owned by George McElroy. His work was making saddles, harness and bridles for the cowboys. He made some gun scabbards for the Dalton boys. From that he says he served as deputy United States Marshal, under Ed Nix who was United States Marshal of the Western District of Oklahoma Territory with headquarters at Guthrie. This was in the years of 1894 - 1896. He next worked for the Archer Hardware Co. (T. J. Archer) from 1896-98, after which time he bought this business and operated it until 1910. From 1910 to 1918 he was in the Real Estate business here in Tulsa and from 1918 to the present time he has been working in the Water Department of the City of Tulsa.