



OKLAHOMA HERITAGE Association
GAYLORD-PICKENS Museum

HERITAGE TIMES

Telling Oklahoma's Story Through Its People

GENEROSITY • INDIVIDUALISM • OPTIMISM • PERSEVERANCE • PIONEER SPIRIT

In **Lesson 1** students will explore some of the personalities that called Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and early Oklahoma home.

Featured Oklahomans

Kate Barnard
Standing Bear
Edward E. Dale
Angie Debo
Edward K. Gaylord
Fred Lookout
David Payne
Bass Reeves
Meta Sager

David Payne

Following his leading of settlers into Indian Territory in 1880, David Payne published the first newspaper in the Cherokee Outlet.

After moving a printing press from southern Kansas to Rock Falls in the Cherokee Outlet, the first issue of the *Oklahoma War Chief* was released in 1884. Payne chose this location as he hoped to establish a colony there.

The paper was printed with a circulation of approximately 2,000 from April to August, 1884. On August 7 the U. S. Army confiscated the press in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's posted order prohibiting the printing of a newspaper in Cherokee Outlet.

A new press was purchased and Payne continued publishing the newspaper in southern Kansas until his death that November. The newspaper was published under different names, including *Oklahoma War-Chief* and *Oklahoma Chief*, until August, 1886.



CAPT. DAVID L. PAYNE

Elementary Activity: Draw a masthead that best represents the class.

Secondary Activity: Research the local newspaper's history and identify the influence of one of its publishers.

Kate Barnard

In 1907 Kate Barnard was elected to the position of commissioner of Charities and Corrections. She was the first female to win a statewide elective office in the United States and was elected again in 1911 for a second term.

After learning of mistreatment of Oklahoma prisoners in a Kansas prison, Barnard returned to Oklahoma and recommended all Oklahoma prisoners be brought back to Oklahoma. Following their return she encouraged merit rewards for good behavior of the inmates. She wanted the corrections system to provide every possible incentive for an inmate to improve.



Elementary Activity: Choose an elected female official from student's county and describe her role.

Secondary Activity: Identify and explain the Oklahoma laws revised during Barnard's tenure.

Bass Reeves

Born to slave parents, Bass Reeves worked alongside his parents in the fields as a water boy until he was old enough to become a field hand.

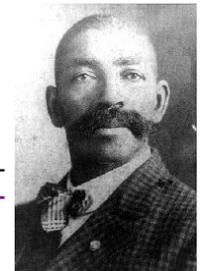
In 1875, Reeves was appointed by Judge Isaac C. Parker as Deputy United States Marshal. Believed to be the first African American deputy marshal commissioned west of the Mississippi River, Reeves served longer

than any Deputy U.S. Marshal on record in Indian Territory.

Bass could not read or write, so he memorized something about the individuals he was pursuing to ensure he matched them with the correct warrant. Bass was never wounded in his 27-year career as a Deputy Marshal.

Elementary Activity: Dis-

cuss the role of law enforcement in the community. **Secondary Activity:** Explore and research the cultural diversity in the local law enforcement community.



Words of Wisdom
from the
Oklahoma Hall
of Fame

“Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of oneself.”
 -Edna Bowman
 Inducted 1970

“There is no end to the good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.”
 -Wanda L. Bass
 Inducted 1998

“I want you to listen real close. There’s a lot you can learn from everyone you meet.”
 -Lyle H. Boren
 Inducted 1986

“Budget your time well, for your time is your capital. There are only twenty-four hours in the day, and the degree of your success will depend upon how you use your time.”
 -Virgil Browne
 Inducted 1961

Chief Standing Bear

From May through July, 1877, the Poncas were forced to Indian Territory from their home along the banks of the Niobrara River in Nebraska. Along the way, many lost their lives, including the son of Ponca Chief Standing Bear.

In January 1879, 29 Poncas flee Indian Territory with Standing Bear to return to their homeland and bury the Chief’s son.

Following the ten-week trip, Standing Bear was arrested. Chief Standing Bear, appearing in Federal Court with his attor-

neys, told of how the law should be—one law for all men.

The judge agreed and the trial of Standing Bear launched the struggle for equal rights for Native Americans.

Elementary Activity: Map the route of the removal and return of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe.

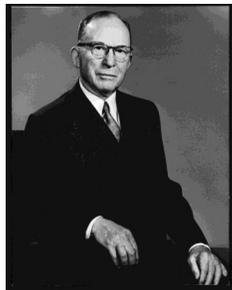
Secondary Activity: Research one of the early civil rights struggles in what is now student’s county.



NOTE: Upon release, *The Trial of Standing Bear*, published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association, was sent to all Oklahoma elementary schools.

Edward K. Gaylord

Edward K. Gaylord came to Oklahoma in 1902 and founded the Oklahoma Publishing Company on January 29, 1903. His leadership included leading the



campaign to move the state capitol to Oklahoma

City. He battled for passage of the city manager form of government, more air routes through Oklahoma City, was a booster of the Oklahoma City Industrial Foundation, which gave the land for Tinker Air Force Base, and headed the delegation which proposed Turner Turnpike.

He was president and general manager of WKY Television, which he bought as a radio station in 1928. He was

the editor and publisher of the *The Oklahoman*, served as president of the Southern Newspaper Publisher Association, and as director of the Associated Press.

Elementary Activity: Learn about the individual who founded the local newspaper.
Secondary Activity: Locate a business or entity that was started prior to Statehood that is still in operation today.

Angie Debo

Angie Debo arrived in a covered wagon and settled in Marshall with her family in 1899. She attended rural one-room schools and received a diploma at age twelve. At sixteen, she began teaching in rural schools at Logan and Garfield counties. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1918 and took up historical writing under the influence of Edward Everett Dale.

She served as principal of North Enid and as a history

teacher at Enid High School. She received her Master’s Degree from the University of Chicago and received her Doctorate from OU. She was the curator of maps at Oklahoma State University until her retirement.

Her contributions as an author include *And Still the Waters Run, A History of the Indians of the United States*, and *Oklahoma, Foot-loose and Fancy-free*.



Elementary Activity: Draw a picture of a historical event in the county.
Secondary Activity: Create a document chronicling a historical event in the county and donate to a local historical society/museum.

Meta Chestnutt Sager



In the fall of 1889, Sager came to Indian Territory and established a school at Silver

City, near the old Chisholm Trail, before she and other townspeople established Minco in 1890. The construction of the Minco Academy was overseen by Sager and became the

Sunny South School and church.

With visions of greater education services, Meta inspired the building of a 21-room school house built in the middle of a 10-acre campus. Eventually it became El Meta Bond College, and more than 2,500 students passed through its halls before it closed its doors in 1920.

In 1939, a park was created on ground that was formerly part of the El Meta College and a bronze plaque was placed as a memorial to Sager.

Elementary Activity:

Identify the college/university closest to the elementary school. Who founded the college and when? What is their mascot?

Secondary Activity:

Research the growth of higher education in Oklahoma both in the number of institutions and their geographic location. Are there areas of the state with a greater population of institutions? If so, explore the reasons this is so.

Did you Know?

from the Oklahoma Hall of Fame

In 1927, **Clara Waters** became the first female warden of an all-male correctional facility in the United States.

Chief Fred Lookout

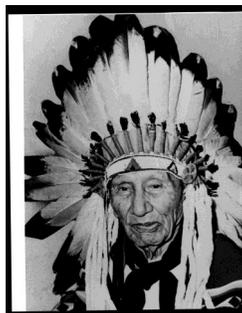
Fred Lookout was only ten years old when he joined his family and tribe on a 150-mile walk from Kansas to the new Osage Mission, present-day Osage County, on Mission Creek.

After attending boarding school in Pawhuska, he graduated from Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania and returned to the Mission where he married, bought a farm, and raised a family at Sand Creek.

He was a member of the Osage Tribal Council, appointed as Assistant Chief, and served as Principal Chief of the Osages. The "spiritual and political leader" of his tribe, Chief Lookout worked tirelessly in his efforts to maintain the property interests and oil leases of his people.

Elementary Activity:

Identify some of the tribes located in the county.



Secondary Activity:

Explore the impact of the Osage oil leases and how the Osage used their wealth.

Johnny Bench could hold seven baseballs at once in his right hand.

Jerrie Cobb was America's first woman to complete astronaut training and qualify for space flight.

Edward Everett Dale

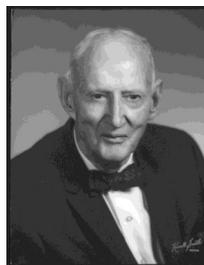
Oklahoma's foremost historian, Edward Everett Dale, was raised in old Greer County and graduated from Central State Teachers College in Edmond in 1909.

A history teacher in Greer County and at the Kiowa-Comanche Reservation, Dale received another degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1911, as well as a master's degree and doctorate from Harvard. He returned to the University of Oklahoma in

1922 as a professor of history and served as chairman of the Department of History from 1924 to 1942 and retired in 1952.

Dale was a member of the Indian survey commission and visited every Indian reservation in the United States. He also spent his summers teaching at a number of universities. Dale authored many outstanding works including *History of Oklahoma*, *Indians of the Southwest*, *Tales of the Teepee*, and his

autobiography entitled *The West Wind Blows*.



Elementary Activity:

Discuss the role of a historian.

Secondary Activity: As a county historian, research a structure, movement, or individual and preserve that history for future generations.

Juanita Kidd Stout was the first African American woman admitted to the Oklahoma Bar and the first to be elected to the bench in the United States.

Educational opportunities annually offered by the **Oklahoma Heritage Association** include:

- More than \$4,000,000 in scholarships to high school students.
- Heritage Week competitions for students in grades 3 through 12.
- Teen Board for students grades 9-12.
- Interactive Versus Series compare and contrast an Oklahoman from our past with his or her contemporary.
- Field trips to the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum—voted Nickelodeon’s Parents’ Choice Best Pick for Teens.
- “I Am Oklahoma” program for students of all ages.
- *Oklahoma: Magazine of the Oklahoma Heritage Association* is distributed to high school libraries statewide.

Oklahoma's recorded history began in the 1500s when Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado came through the area that would become this great state on his search for the "Lost City of Gold."

The land that would become known as Oklahoma was part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Beginning in the 1800s, the Five Civilized Tribes were relocated to Indian Territory, the most recognized being the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

Following the destruction of the Civil War, Oklahoma became a part of the booming cattle industry, ushering in the era of the cowboy. Western expansion reached the territory in the late 1800s, sparking a controversy over the fate of the land. Treaties enacted after the Civil War by the U.S. government forced the tribes to give up their communal lands and accept individual property allotments to make way for expansion. There was talk of using Indian Territory for settlement by African Americans emancipated from slavery. However, the government relented to pressure, much of it coming from a group known as "Boomers," who wanted the rich lands opened to non-Indian settlement.

By 1856, each of the Five Civilized Tribes established territorial boundaries in the frontier. These were all national domains, not reservations. The Tribes began building cultures out of the Oklahoma wilderness. The Five Civilized Tribes each formed their own constitutional governments and established advanced public school systems. The nations had powerful judicial systems and strong economies. To protect the nations, the United States Army built several forts, including Fort Washita and Fort Gibson.

The government opened the western parts of the territory to settlers by holding land runs in the late 1800s. Settlers from across the nation and countries like Poland, Germany, and Ireland came to stake their claims. Many African Americans, including former slaves of Indians, took part in the runs and accepted allotments as tribal members.

Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union on November 16, 1907.

www.oklahomaheritage.com



Comments/Questions:

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