

Proud of Oklahoma - I witnessed birth of this Territory. I saw the first great rush on the ever memorable April 22, 1889. I have been a resident of this Territory since the day of its birth. I know its history. I know what it has cost to make this Territory what it is to-day. I am familiar with the sacrifices made by the people in the early period of our history. Seventeen years of toil, and labor, industry & economy, pluck and persistence had wrought changes unparalleled in the history of this nation. From an unsettled & unpopulated country we have grown to a great Commonwealth with three quarters of a million of ~~less~~ inhabitants. From the day of poverty & want we have attained affluence and wealth. From weakness we have attained

strength and power. ~~How~~ White Congress
has failed to admit ~~on to her~~ in so far
refused admission into the Union as a
state, we have become a state in every
thing but in name, and the rights powers
+ privileges of which Statehood confer
upon citizens. In wealth, population,
institutions, in local governments,
in organized society, Schools + Churches,
we rank about one third of the
States of the Union. Every man may
justly boast of his citizenship in this
Territory.

I stand

Standing to-night, on the Western border
of this Territory, and ~~looking~~ keeping
in mind the achievements our past,
I ~~but~~ take a survey of Oklahoma, - I
see her for intelligent and progressive and
patriotic people, her wealth and resources,
her vast business interests, and great
industries, her public schools,
colleges, and universities, and
churches, and my bosom swells
with & swelling pride that I am
a citizen of this grand Commonwealth
that has achieved so much in the
past, and whose future prospects for
growth and greatness and glory, are as
bright as the sun in heaven.

4.

Fair Wichita! Thou art the gem
of the prairies! The jewel of the
great South West! The young
giant of the ^{great} ~~Mississippi~~ valley,
Commonwealth of this nation, and
the fairest flower ~~in the great~~
blooming between the Atlantic and
the Pacific ocean.

(1)

Since the day of its birth, the Homestead Law has been an important factor in the affairs of Oklahoma.

For a full quarter of a century prospecting settlers had been clamoring to have the lands in Oklahoma opened to settlement. Time after time colonies of settlers under the leadership of Broome and Payne had been ejected by United States troops. Every effort to open the country to settlement had been in vain. The outlook for the settlers was gloomy indeed.

But on March 4, 1889, a new administration was inaugurated.

(a new President of the United States.) On March 23, - only nineteen days ^{there} after he was inaugurated - a proclamation was issued opening 2,000,000 acres of lands

in Oklahoma ~~were~~ expected to succeed,
and that proclamation time ~~was~~ given
for the signature of the honored Honorable
President, Benjamin Harrison!

April 22, 1889, at 12 o'clock, noon, was
the appointed time

At 12 o'clock, noon, April 22, 1889, fully
100,000 people were assembled around
the new lands to participate in the
race for homes. There was intense
rivalry as to who should lead in
that race and make the first
filing on these lands. When the doors
of the United States Land office at
Tulsa swung open - the first man
to present his papers - the man who
had outstripped them all - was, ^{an Indian}
~~by the name of~~ Johnathan Dille, a
Heship farmer.

This is not all. Behind the counter - stood
~~a gentleman representing the United States~~
the Register & ^{U.S.} ~~Treasurer~~, - to receive & and
act on these papers - Hon John D.
~~Another notice from~~ Hossier,
Byas of Congress appended
On May 14, 1890 ~~Congress~~ the territory
of Oklahoma was created. To govern
the government and safely conduct it
through its crisis.