

THE HOOSIER IN OKLAHOMA.

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"The Hoosier in Oklahoma" is proud of his native state, -
proud of her history, her wealth, her great resources, her public
institutions, her unequalled public school fund, her famous orators
her illustrious statesmen, her popular poets, her military heroes,
and her brave soldiers. Indiana ranks among the foremost
commonwealths of the Union. Her sons in Oklahoma are justly
proud of her. Being myself only ~~but~~ one of the very humble
Hoosiers in Oklahoma, I may, with propriety, say, that Indiana
is, no doubt, ^{also} proud of the honorable record of her sons in
Oklahoma..

The famous proclamation, fixing 12 o'clock, noon,
April 22, 1889, as the time when the first lands in Oklahoma
should be opened to white settlement, bore the ~~signature~~ of our great
Hoosier President, Benjamin Harrison. More than a hundred
thousand people, from the various states of the Union, had gathered
around these lands, eager to enter ~~the lands~~ at the appointed
hour. There was great rivalry, as to who should lead in the
great race. There was intense excitement. Finally the hour
came; the great race was on; the land office doors at Guthrie
swung open. The first man to present his filing papers was an
Indiana Farmer! Behind the desk ~~was~~ to receive, and act upon
his papers stood, the widely known Hoosier Register of the
Land Office, Hon. John I. Dille. At the same hour, thirty
five miles westward, at the Kingfisher land office, a similar
scene was enacted.

that walked into the door

The first money, of a homesteader, paid over the counter of
~~his money over the counter~~
the Land Office, was delivered into the hands of a Hoosier
Receiver of Public Moneys, the Hon. J. V. Admire.

May 14, 1890, Congress passed an Act creating the
territory of Oklahoma. To organize this government, demanded
a mastermind. There ~~were~~ numerous applicants for the position
of chief executive of the new territory.

After mature deliberation, the President finally select-
ed for this important position, that distinguished statesman
from Indiana, Hon. George W. Steele. We ~~justly~~, therefore, ~~justify~~
boast of having furnished to Oklahoma her first Governor. This was
a critical period in the history of our Territory. An experi-
enced hand was required at the helm. Manufacturers always send
an expert to set up, and start to running, a new piece of machin-
ery. The Governmental machine of the new territory must be
set up, adjusted, lubricated, tested, and placed in running order.
This responsible work was intrusted to a Hoosier. So well was
the work done, that the subsequent Governors, from Missouri and
Arkansas, have had no difficulty in running the government
successfully.

The Judicial branch of our government has ~~played an~~
~~an important~~ ^{done much} ~~and~~
~~important~~ part in the history of our territory. The Judges of
our Supreme Court have ~~done much~~ ^{to} guide us safely through many
dangers incident to our ^{peculiar} surroundings, circumstances and conditions.
To our judiciary we owe a great debt of gratitude. The Hoosier
Judge is entitled to his full share of praise. In length of
service, in legal requirements, in intellectual power, in dignity
of character, and ⁱⁿ purity of purpose, who among all of our Honor-

able *Justices*, ranks above our present Hoosier Chief Justice,
Hon. John H. Burford?

But three persons have occupied the position of U. S.
Attorney for Oklahoma. Two of these have been Hoosiers. One
of these, Hon. Horace Speed, served one full term, and is now
serving upon his second term--having been re-appointed by our
great Ohio President, William McKinley, on his good behavior,
and excellent record, when in office under another administration.
The other Hoosier U. S. Attorney was the clear-headed, warm and
generous hearted, universally popular, true and faithful, and ^{he} now
~~deceased and~~ lamented son of Indiana, Hon. Samuel L. Overstreet.

The Hoosier in Oklahoma has been conspicuous as a
legislator. For one session of our legislature Indiana fur-
nished the President of the council, in the person of the late
~~No one has served with more credit, in our legislative halls~~
Hon. J. H. Pitzer. In every legislature the voice of the
formerly Indiana-men has been heard in behalf of just, wise and
equitable laws.

The Hoosier in Oklahoma has not been merely a civilian.
During the Spanish-American war, the man selected to lead the
Oklahoma batallion, was, the broad-shouldered, big-brained,
~~fearless~~
~~as~~ Hoosier, Major John F. Stone. After the war, he was
made Colonel of our Territorial Militia, and held the position
when the bullet, from the assassin's gun, did its deadly work.

The Adjutant General of our Territory, Gen. Bert Orner,
is a son of the widely known Hoosier, Hon. George D. Orner, who
has for years held the responsible position of Special Agent of
the General Land Office, at Washington.

And The office of Attorney General was filled for four
years by that able Hoosier lawyer, Hon. C. A. Calbreath.

*Another Hoosier, Hon. J. G.
Merrick, represented his
county in our Legislature
with honor and credit*

than our Hoosier senator, Hon. O. R. Keagan.

official

To continue this list of those who have filled ~~Honorable~~ positions in the Territory, would grow monotonous. The list is too long. More than this, an examination of the records and files of the Department at Washington will show that hundreds of Hoosiers have aspired to high official positions, and ~~it is not~~ ^{their} fault that the Hoosiers have not completely monopolized all the official positions in the Territory, *is no fault of theirs.*

It must be assured that the Hoosier power and influence has been confined to official positions. In private life the career of the Hoosier has been no less honorable, patriotic and illustrious. The editor of the leading Democratic Daily newspaper of Oklahoma, the Daily Leader of Guthrie, is edited by the talented, versatile, and brilliant Hoosier journalist, Leslie J. Neiback. Among the republican editors of the Territory, who writes with more grace, force, and originality, than the Hoosier editor of the Republican News Journal, of ~~for~~ Newkirk, Jeremiah Johnson?

I recall another ~~prominent Hoosier~~ editor, who wields a trenchant pen, and who has been prominent in Oklahoma affairs, Hon. William Allison, of Chandler. Who, among all the business men of Oklahoma, is entitled ~~We do not top here. In the business world, the keen~~ to rank with the widely known Hoosier Capitalist of Oklahoma ~~besides the energy, and the industry of the Hoosier has been~~ City, Mr. Henry Overholzer. The building in which we meet here to-day, is a lasting and honorable monument, to its Hoosier builder, Major George F. Herritt.

Personal mention of all the Hoosiers who have filled
~~or who have attained prominence in private life~~
official positions would be impossible in this short address.

More than this, in the brief time which I have had to make preparations, I could do nothing more than refer to those who quickly came to my memory. Doubtless there are many others, whose names I have omitted, who are deserving of Honorable mention. Indeed, a volume might be written, on the "Hoosier in Oklahoma."

In general, therefore, I may say that the Hoosier in Oklahoma, may justly boast of the creditable part he has taken in the affairs of our Territory. No other state in the union ^{more} can claim for her sons a record ~~so~~ conspicuous, ~~so creditable,~~ ~~so useful,~~ and honorable.

To recapitulate, I will say: "The Hoosier in Oklahoma" has been governor of the Territory, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, United States Attorney, Attorney General, Adjutant General, Colonel of our Militia, Register and Receiver of the United States Land Offices, President of the Council of our Territorial ~~Clerk of our Supreme Court, and State Land Commissioner;~~ Legislature; he has filled innumerable positions of trust and honor in our local county and city governments; ^{he has been past} he has practised law and medicine, taught in our common schools, Colleges and Universities, edited newspapers, preached the Gospel, sold merchandise, engaged in the mechanical pursuit, tilled the soil, boomed towns, built railroads, and engaged in every other honorable avocation. Go where you may in Oklahoma, there you will find the Hoosier--intelligent, industrious, progressive, law-abiding, sociable, ^{Generous, loyal and patriotic.} independent. He has been a useful citizen and his coming has been a blessing to Oklahoma.