

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

INDIAN
TERRITORY

JUL 30 1982

Oklahoma Indians Sought Education

An example of native sons of Indian and white racial blood was described by J.B. Thoburn in "History of Oklahoma" (published 1916). He cited Zadoc J. Harrison of Bryan County.

"That Indian citizens of this generation have made progress equally as meritorious as that of the white man has no better illustration than that afforded by the fact that in Oklahoma so many young men of Indian blood are filling positions of honor and responsibility," Thoburn wrote.

"Further interest is implied in the circumstance of their having received their early education in the leading schools of the various Indian Nations that were formerly constituent parts of Indian Territory.

"The Jones Academy at Hartshorne, Pittsburg County, in which scores of Indian boys have been educated, undoubtedly is to be considered as one of the institutions of foremost rank in its service to Indian youth and in the number of young men it has prepared for business and professional vocations.

"From this school came Zadoc J. Harrison. . . . The admirable intellectual and professional training which Mr. Harrison acquired eminently betokens the interest in education manifested by the Choctaws in recent years.

"Mr. Harrison was afforded the advantages of the public schools of Lehigh and then continued his studies at the Baptist Academy at Atoka. Later, he was a student in the Spencer Academy of the Choctaw Nation, Harrell Institute at Muskogee, the law school of Epworth University in Oklahoma City, and Draughon's Business College in Oklahoma City. That he has distinctive business ability is evidenced by his successful association with banking institutions since receiving his education."