

# Professionals Aided Settlement

In the settlement of Oklahoma and Indian territories, doctors, lawyers and bankers were much in demand and often wielded considerable influence in community affairs. Many of them contributed both leadership and money to civic progress.

The deeds of large numbers were recorded in "History of Oklahoma" by J.B. Thoburn, published in 1916.

Here is an excerpt from it:

"Most of the site of the present prosperous town of Milburn was a cottonfield and luxuriant cotton stalks rose shoulder high to a man where the First National Bank now stands when Dr. Guy Clark arrived in Indian country in 1902.

"As the first physician on the townsite of Milburn, Dr. Clark has been one of the most prominent in the upbuilding of that community....

He was a member of the first board of education, which built the first schoolhouse. He was a member of the first city council, helping to establish city government. He helped organize the First Presbyterian Church."



Banks often were established with only \$5,000 or \$10,000 capital, and bank officials bragged publicly of deposits of \$100,000. Because they held the purse strings, bankers could make or break a community.

When Warren H. Brown was appointed probate judge in the Kiowa and Comanche country in 1902, outlaws openly defied law enforcement. Judge Brown's first official act was to swear in 36 deputy sheriffs.

The law provided that an individual had to be a resident of the county for six months in order to be eligible for jury service. Although there were more than 10,000 people in the county, it wasn't easy to find a 12-man jury to serve. Judge Brown recalled one jury that contained five ex-convicts.