

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

## TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

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# Uncle's Advice Proved Good

Shortly before admission of Oklahoma as one of the sovereign states of the Union and after Gov. Robert Taylor of Tennessee had returned home from a lecture tour in which Oklahoma had been included, the executive told his nephew, Baxter Taylor, that the territory needed industrious, ambitious young men.

"Go out to that country, Baxter," the governor advised. "Go to Atoka. I've been there recently and the town needs a newspaperman. Get yourself a plant and go into business. Statehood is coming soon, and when it comes you can enter the practice of law and become a success."

Baxter Taylor heeded his uncle's advice. He established residence in Atoka in 1906, becoming editor of the Atoka Democrat. His later accomplishments as an attorney, judge and citizen made him successful.

Related events are of interest. Baxter's paternal grandfather, Nathaniel G. Taylor, had served as commissioner of Indian affairs during the Andrew Johnson administration. He visited what is now Oklahoma, found that the frontier settlers needed more protection and recommended the construction of another military fort. Upon this recommendation Fort Sill was created.