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# *Trading Post Of Ada Grew*

Many Oklahoma communities owe their origin to the foresightedness of a few hopeful citizens, sometimes only to one man. Others failed to grow where town founders were mistakenly hopeful.

An example of a town that was well-founded is Ada. A.H. Constant was a businessman who saw possibilities for a great future for the little trading site in Pontotoc County, which was founded by Jeff Reed and named for Reed's daughter.

The first railroad survey had been completed through what became Pontotoc County in 1900 and 1901, in which John Beard had an important role. Constant had been manager of the Valley Grain and Milling Company at Pauls Valley. In 1900, with help of W.H.P. Trudgeon of Oklahoma City and George B. Rennie of Pauls Valley, Constant acquired 190 acres of Indian land and began platting the town of Ada.

The Indian right was transferred to Rennie and he delegated to Constant the right to sell lots. The first house was built by Rennie, completed in May 1900. Other houses were built the same year with lumber hauled 30 to 50 miles from Pauls Valley, Wynnewood and Davis.

Constant later became manager of the Laidlaw Lumber Company at Ada and sold \$30,000 worth of lumber to build homes and businesses before the Frisco railroad reached Ada.

After the new town was platted, the small post office building, situated across the creek to the north, was loaded upon a wagon and hauled to the new townsite sometime between sundown and sunup.

The unannounced move encouraged remaining merchants to move their businesses also from "North Ada" to "New Ada."