

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood



Counties Formed After 1889 Run

After the run of 1889, Oklahoma, Logan, Cleveland, Payne, Kingfisher and Canadian counties were formed, although not entirely along the present boundaries.

In 1891, following opening of the Iowa, Sac and Fox, and Pottawatomie-Shawnee reservations to settlement, two new counties were formed, and Oklahoma, Logan and Cleveland counties were enlarged.

One of the new counties officially was designated as County A and the other County B. In the 1892 general election people of these two counties voted to change the names to Pottawatomie and Lincoln counties.

The next land opening was the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation in April 1892. From it, six new counties were formed, designated respectively as Counties C, D, E, F, G and H. Subsequently, these were named Blaine, Day, Dewey, Roger Mills, Custer, Ellis and Washita counties. At statehood, Day County was divided and added to Roger Mills and Ellis counties. Its county seat called Grant no longer exists.

By the opening of the Cherokee Strip, seven new counties added to the settled and organized portions of Oklahoma Territory. They were designated respectively as K, L, M, N, O, P and Q. These afterward were named, by vote of the residents, Kay, Grant, Woods, Woodward, Garfield, Noble and Pawnee.

Kay, the former K County, is the only one that utilized the alphabetical source in its name and has the shortest name in the state.