

Alabama Civil War Centennial Commission
State of Oklahoma



Prepared By
Muriel H. Wright
Oklahoma Historical Society

and
LaRoy H. Fischer
Oklahoma State University

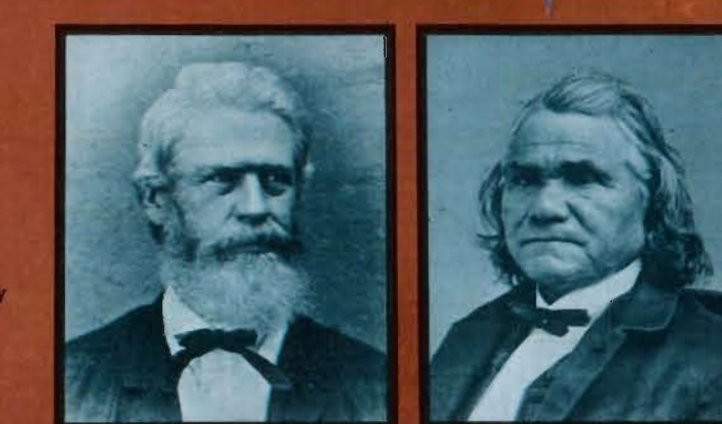


MAJ. GEN. JAMES G. BLUNT
COL. WM. A. PHILLIPS

HON. HENRY BELLMON
Honorary Chairman
HENRY B. BASS
Chairman

MEMBERS
LaRoy H. Fischer
Fred Floyd
A. M. Gibson
Jenkin Lloyd Jones

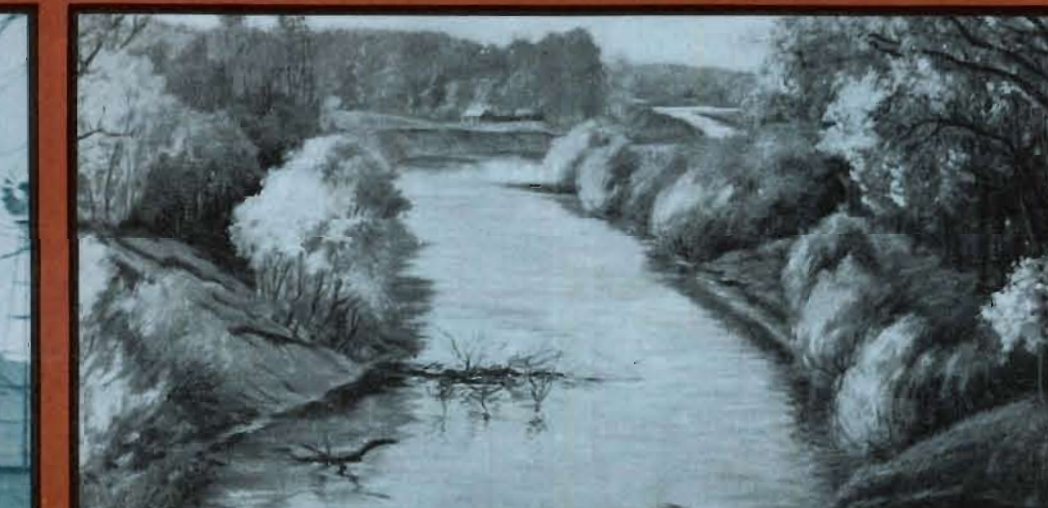
Homer L. Knight
Jordan B. Reeves
George H. Shirik
Elmer L. Praker, Secretary



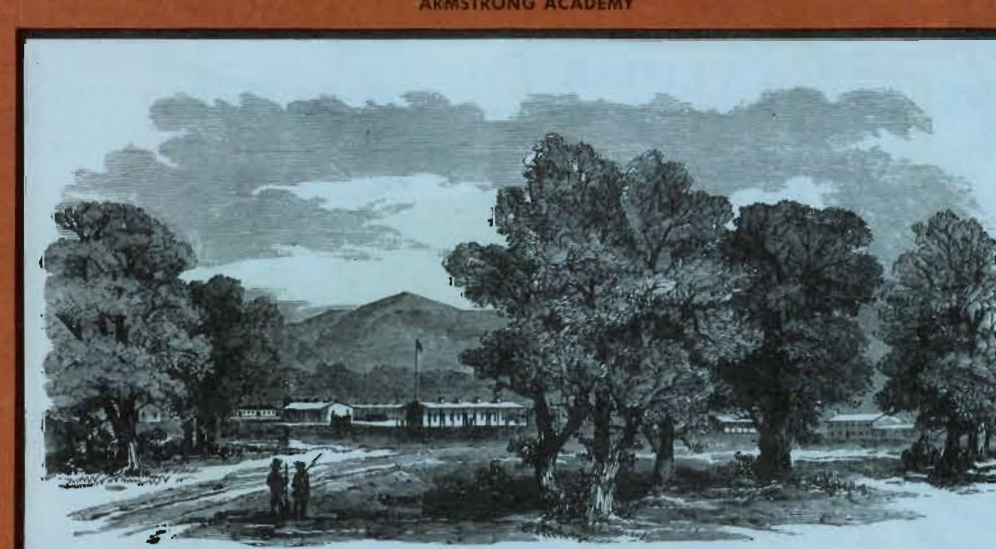
BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS H. COOPER
BRIG. GEN. STAND WATIE



ARMSTRONG ACADEMY



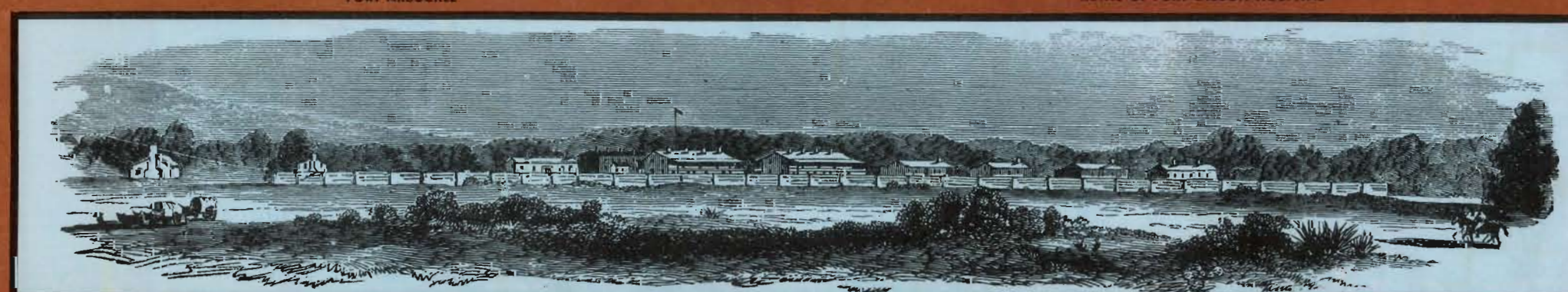
BIG CREEK - CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD NEAR TULSA



FORT ARBUCKLE



RUINS OF FORT GIBSON HOSPITAL



FORT WASHITA

CIVIL WAR ROUTES

- California Road
- Santa Fe Trail
- Sterling Price
- Butterfield Overland Mail
- Texas Road
- Chisholm Trail

CIVIL WAR RELATED SITES

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Armstrong Academy | 9 Camp McIntosh | 18 Coody's Bluff | 28 Fort Smith | 36 Mayville, Arkansas | 44 Thlophocco |
| 2 Avenir Junction | 10 Camp Ralazimick | 19 Council Hill, Creek | 29 Fort Towson | 37 North Fork Town | 45 Tallahassee Mission |
| 3 Big Pond | 11 Capital of Cherokee | 20 Coweta | 30 Fort Washita | 38 Park Hill Treaty Ground | 46 Tulsa Town |
| 4 Blountfield | 12 Capital of Chickasaw Nation | 21 Dwight Mission | 31 Goodland Mission | 39 Sell's Store | 47 U. S. Crossing of Arkansas River |
| 5 Buck Creek Academy | 13 Carriage Point | 22 Fishers' Store | 32 Greenwood's Store | 40 Seminole Agency | 48 U. S. Army Troop Concentration for Withdrawal North, 1861 |
| 6 Burney Camp | 14 Cheyenne Village | 23 Fort Arbuckle | 33 Hazlett Ferry | 41 Jesse Chisholm Trading Post | 49 Wheelock Mission |
| 7 Camp Jumper | 15 Chonka | 24 Fort Cobb | 34 Jesse Chisholm Trading Post | 42 Skidaway | |
| 8 Camp McCulloch | 16 Chochran's Store | 25 Fort Gibson | 35 Jesse Chisholm Trading Post | 43 Springs Place | |
| | 17 Concharry | 26 Fort McCulloch | 36 Fort Nichols | 44 Moravian Mission | |

THE CIVIL WAR IN INDIAN TERRITORY

As war raged in 1860-1861, neutrality appeared likely for the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory. Their relations with both the southern states and the Federal government had been unproblematic. Each had forced their removal from the lower South.

Washington authorities controlled the movements of the tribes and would then large sums of money, all of which would be lost if they changed allegiance. But many Indians held slaves, and the Federal agents assigned to them were southerners, and actively sympathetic with the secession movement. Moreover, their nearest neighbors were Arkansas and Texas, both determined to keep the Territory with them in secession.

Federal Troop Withdrawal and Confederate Treaties

As Texas moved into the Territory in April 1862 to capture forts Washita, Arbuckle and Cobb, three Federal posts were abandoned and their garrisons sent to Fort Smith in the East. This action removed the last United States Army troops from Indian Territory.

Captain Albert Pike of Arkansas, already well known to the Indians, was sent to the Territory in May 1862 by the Confederacy to negotiate treaties. The Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole readily allied, but only a fraction of the Creek signed. Chief John Ross of the Cherokee managed at first to keep his people officially neutral, but the Colonel (later General) Stand Watie was sent to raise troops for the Confederacy. Finally, in October, Ross reluctantly signed with the Confederacy. Most

other tribes in the Territory also allied with the South, including the Kiowa, Comanche, Kiowa-Arapaho, and Kiowa-Cheyenne. Confederate Indian Regiments Formed

The Richmond government in May 1862 authorized three Indian regiments for Confederate service, but four were organized. Colonel (later General) Douglas H. Cooper, the former Indian agent, commanded the Choctaw-Chickasaw regiment; Colonel (later General) Stand Watie led the Creek-Seminole regiment; and Colonel John Ross commanded the Cherokee regiment, and Colonel John Ross commanded the Cherokee regiment, and Colonel John Ross commanded the Cherokee regiment.

By early November, the expedition was turning back to Kansas. Colonel Cooper was far on Opolthelyph's trail, and attacked with Indians and Texas at Round Mountain, the first battle of the war in Indian Territory, on November 22, 1862. Disorganized and suffering after additional assaults at Chusto-Talash and Chusto-Talash, Opolthelyph's forces fled to the Kansas in mid-November. In great numbers from experience and starvation.

Confederate Indians Fight in Arkansas

The two Cherokee regiments fought largely against the

in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 6-8, 1862. In this Confederate defeat, Watie's forces captured a battery of artillery. Confederate Indian troops also participated in the Battle of Poison Spring, Arkansas. Again they captured a Federal battery, and aided in taking a large wagon train.

First Federal Invasion

Out of the sympathy of Kansas and the determination of the Union Indians developed the invading expedition of June and July 1862. In chief purpose was the return of the fugitive Indians to their homes. Six Kansas regiments, one Wisconsin regiment, and two regiments of Indian refugees made up the force. The Confederates gave but little opposition at Cowskin Prairie and Locust Grove.

At Park Hill the Federals were almost welcomed by Chief Ross, who welcomed the remainder of his Confederate regiment as well as the Indian ones. Ross was nearly ambushed, and with many of Watie's forces during the invasion was made to withdraw to Kansas. Violence and destruction followed in the Cherokee Nation.

Second Federal Invasion

The Union Indian Brigade and a Kansas brigade, commanded by General James G. Blunt, moved into the Territory and defeated Colonel Cooper's forces at Fort Wayne, opposite the Arkansas line, on October 22, 1862. Fort Gibson, near Muskogee, was soon occupied by units under Colonel William A. Phillips. He earned by Federal victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg,

and reinforced by additional troops from Kansas, Colorado, and Wisconsin. General Blunt determined to break Confederate resistance in the Territory. The armies clashed in the climactic Battle of Honey Springs, about seventy miles southwest of Fort Gibson, on July 17, 1863. Blunt, with 3,000 men, defeated Cooper's force of Indians and Texans, numbering 6,000.

The Confederates were at a decided disadvantage because of wet powder and the vigorous attack of the First Kansas Colored Infantry, informed before the battle that it taken captive no quarter would be given. While decisive militarily, Honey Springs was significant also as one of the first battles of the war in which Negroes proved their qualities as fighting men.

Important Operations End

With Blunt's capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, the following September, Federal forces controlled Indian Territory. General Watie still made frequent raids and kept the Federals close to Fort Gibson and Fort Smith. He captured a substantial load of supplies at Pleasant Bluff, on the Arkansas River, and took a wagon train with supplies valued at \$1,500,000 at Cabin Creek.

The Confederate Surrender

With Blunt's capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, the following September, Federal forces controlled Indian Territory. General Watie still made frequent raids and kept the Federals close to Fort Gibson and Fort Smith. He captured a substantial load of supplies at Pleasant Bluff, on the Arkansas River, and took a wagon train with supplies valued at \$1,500,000 at Cabin Creek.

Lee capitulated to Grant on April 9, 1865. General E. Kirby Smith, in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department, held out until May 26. General Watie, however, kept up resistance until June 23, when he surrendered his command at Doaksville in the Cherokee Nation. He was the last Confederate general to lay down his arms.

The Cover Drawing

Combat artist James O'Neill, representing Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, sketched this view of the general battle of Honey Springs, while accompanying the Federal forces of General Blunt. The following October, while still with Blunt, O'Neill was killed at Baxter Springs, Kansas, by a Confederate guerrilla band led by William C. Quantrill. O'Neill's body, together with those of others killed in the action, was then buried by Quantrill's men.



GOV. HENRY BELLMON

"As governor of Oklahoma, I am sure I speak for all its citizens and friends when I say 'Welcome to Oklahoma, it's good to see you.' Oklahoma is a friendly people, and all of us are anxious to make you feel comfortable and relaxed within our borders.

The Confederates were at a decided disadvantage of a young State on the way up to reemerge with the wisdom of experience brought here by pioneers settling on an unworked land, opportunity and pleasure abound for those who seek it. In Oklahoma's uniquely remarkable people and its abundant power and water, industry may find growth and prosperity. In an natural scenic beauty and its wealth of lakes stretching from the meads of the southwest to the forest-covered mountains in the southeast, nature's beauties invite observation.

For whatever reason you are in Oklahoma, business, recreation, or just passing through, we invite you to share with us the pride and joy in our Great State.

To those of you who are just passing through, I say: 'A safe and pleasant journey, but with urgent business completed, come back and see us. We'll be happy to show you around.'

Henry Bellmon

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Henry Bellmon,
Governor of Oklahoma

Martin Garber, Chairman
Virgil Jumper, Vice Chairman
C. H. Gragg, Secretary
T. H. McCasland, Member
Robert S. Newhouse, Member
G. Nat Irish, Member
J. Cooper West, Member
Truman Boatman, Member
F. D. Lyons, Director



BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS, 1863