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History of Montgomery County, Kansas: By Its Own People, 1903

L. W. Duncan

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HISTORY OF CANEY
BY
J.R. CHARLTON

Caney Valley Historical Society

Monday Profile:

A Bartlesville family 'reunion'

By Rita Thurman Barnes
E-E Correspondent

He was born July 21, 1858 in Salem, Ill. She was born on April 5, 1912, one day after her father's birthday, at Amarillo, Tex.

She will soon be celebrating a very special birthday and he has long since returned to the dust from whence he came. He was the Rev. J.R. Charlton, educator, historian, newspaper man, politician, minister and lawyer. He was an early day "pioneer" and friend of Jake Bartles, one of the founders of Bartlesville.

She is Jessie Louise Sager Saddoris, a surname well known in present-day Bartlesville.

He is part of Bartlesville's history but she has written her own history during the past 90 years many of which she spent teaching in the Bartlesville area public schools.

A book written during the lifetime of Charlton says in part, "There is probably no better known figure in Washington County than J. R. Charlton of Bartlesville. To enumerate and describe the varied activities of his life would be to prepare a sketch which would transcend the limits of this volume."

He most likely passed away as her young life was taking shape. Louise Sager's father was a conductor on the Santa Fe Railroad and though she was Texas-born, her father soon agreed to transfer to Arizona which had just been admitted to statehood in February, 1912, the same year she was born. Her family lived at Flagstaff and later in Phoenix which her mother described as "a place where you had to have a rain barrel to supplement the available water; of burning twisted cloths at night to ward

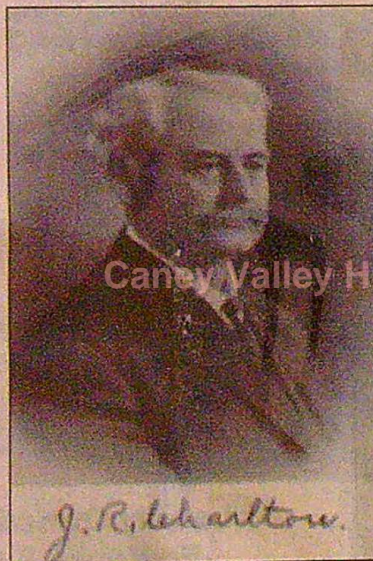
off the mosquitoes and having no electricity at all."

Charlton was the son of W. J. and Elizabeth Charlton. His paternal grandfather, Isaac Bradbury Charlton was a native of Virginia who went to Tennessee in 1820, married and then moved to Marion County, Illinois, and located on the farm on which J. R. Charlton was born. His family resided on the Charlton homestead until 1877, when they moved to Chautauqua County,

oldest last."

While in Canadian, she remembers "many train trips to Amarillo to visit the doctor who called my mother 'Miss Bertha.' Of course we visited my grandparents, Jasper and Maggie McCarty. Grandpa was an engineer on the Santa Fe and it was a special occasion to be a passenger on grandpa's train."

When Louise moved to Amarillo, she began going to Sunday School and church.



Kansas, traveling in true pioneer style by prairie schooner, and locating at Sedan, where they resided until about 1900. His family then moved four miles north of Independence, Kan. and lead the life of typical Kansas farming people.

In 1914, Louise's family moved back to Texas and settled to the town of Canadian where she has fond memories of living on "The Hill" — "where kerosene lamps gleamed from the brackets on the walls or from their tables at night. Having cold running water at a sink but no hot water and on Saturday night, when the whole family took turns bathing in the kitchen where it was the youngest first and the

"My grandparents were ardent members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since the denomination was founded by Alexander Campbell, members were often called 'Campbellites.' As a child the only camel I knew of was a strange four-legged animal. Therefore, I deeply resented being called a 'camelite.' I met grandma and we walked to church each Sunday."

J. R. Charlton was reared on a farm in Illinois and was 19 when he came to the West after graduating from high school. He had decided upon a career as a teacher, and when he came to Kansas his parents accompanied him. His first school was located east of

Sedan, Kan. where he was teaching in 1878 when he was induced by his uncle, J.D. McBrain, who was a Christian Church minister and an attorney, to come to his office and study law. Charlton read law during two summers, taught school in the winter and studied law at night. He was finally admitted to the bar August 16, 1880. He practiced in Elk City, Kan. and in March 1884, began practice in Montgomery County, Kan.

During his time there, in 1890, Charlton was elected county attorney and served in that capacity during the famous Dalton raid at Coffeyville. Through his efforts Emmett Dalton was sent to the penitentiary, but in later years, Charlton also assisted in securing his freedom. He lived there until 1906 when he moved to Bartlesville, although he had lived within 35 miles of Bartlesville since 1877.

Louise "skated" her way through elementary school, played the violin in the Tyler orchestra and helped organize a sewing club. She fondly remembers a trip to Chicago with her grandmother McCarty who was unable to speak due to a series of small strokes.

"I got to ride the El, visit the zoo, see Lake Michigan and even shop at Marshall Fields.

"Traveling with grandma was first class - lower berths and eating in the dining car."

Birthdays were always a special event and since her birthday was the day after her father's they always celebrated it together.

"Dad and I shared birthdays even after I married and moved to Bartlesville."

By her junior year in high school, Louise had met Arlon Saddoris and they began dating on a regular basis.

See Profile on Page A3

Profile, Continued from A1

"Since neither of us had the use of a car we walked everywhere. I remember seeing the first 'talkie movie', The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson. After the movie it was (our custom) to go to the ice cream parlor for a banana split — sometimes split with two spoons."

"At Christmas in 1929, Arlon surprised me with a diamond engagement ring and we chose July 31 as our wedding day. The service was performed by the minister from the Christian Church. Thoughts of a wedding trip never occurred to us. We both went right back to our jobs the next day. Arlon's oldest brother offered him a job and the promise of a part ownership in a laundry business in Bartlesville, now Saddoris Textile and Maintenance. We traveled by train to Bartlesville and settled in our new home on Keeler Street just across the street from Horace Mann School. In 1948, I substituted often at Horace Mann."

"In the spring of 1949, I decided to apply for a fulltime teaching position. I taught at Lakeview, Rice Creek, Fish Creek, in Dewey schools, at Horace Mann from 1957 to 1966 and at Wayside from 1966 till 1975 when I retired."

Charlton had been an ordained minister of the Christian Church since 1894. He preached all over the area where he organized over thirty churches. He held a meeting at a church at Dewey in 1915 and had 123 additions to the church. He organized the Christian Church in Bartlesville, which in July, 1897, had 66 members. Charlton was widely known as

a speaker, not only on religious subjects and his services were in constant demand at various meetings and celebrations. In 1891, he was invited by Col. Jake Bartles to deliver the Fourth of July speech in Bartlesville and for three days Charlton and his wife were entertained at the Bartles' home. A crowd of 5,000 people from all over the countryside attended the celebration. Twenty steers were barbecued, the Indians held war dances and the park was lighted by electricity generated in Colonel Bartles' own mill. At the same time, the United States marshal "roped in" about 15 bootleggers, who, in the absence of a jail, were secured by being tied to trees, much to the delight of the crowd. He and Jake Bartles remained lifelong friends.

At some point in her life, Louise Sager Saddoris became interested in her family history. Her main research centered around the McCarty side of her family but each time she attended a McCarty reunion she learned more about her extended families, in particular she learned of the Charltons.

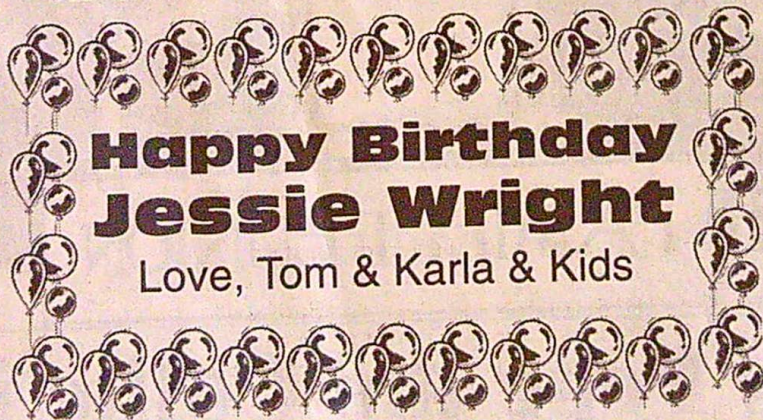
"Our Charlton line came

from Rachel Charlton, the first wife of Henry McCarty. Much of my information about J.R. Charlton came from Eddie and LeRoy Charlton who had been researching the family for several years. Each time we visited them we gained more family history and met more kinsmen of both the McCarty and Charlton lines."

Jessie Louise Sager Saddoris and Rev. J.R. Charlton are relatives — if distant ones, but both are intrinsically tied to Bartlesville. They shared more than just a bloodline. They shared a love for serving their community through education, church, being active politically, public speaking but most of all through just being good people.

Charlton, minister, politician, teacher and public servant might be the first one to wish Louise Saddoris, who has unknowingly followed in his footsteps in so many ways, a very happy 90th birthday this Friday, April 5.

These two honorable people, who happen to be related, are just another example of the "right stuff" of which Bartlesville is made.



History of Caney
by

J. R. Charlton

J. R. Smith

Copied
Caney Valley from Historical Society

History of Montgomery
County, Kansas

By Its Own People

Published by L. Wallace Duncan

Iola, Kansas 1903

Press of Iola Register

CANEY

by J. R. Charlton

Caney, the Queen City of Montgomery county, situated in the southwest corner of the county, about one mile from the Indian Territory line, and about the same distance from the east line of Chautauqua county. It is built upon a sandy knoll, skirted on the north by the beautiful stream, Cheyenne creek, with its beautiful farms, on the west by the broad and rich valley of the Caney river, and on the south by the classic and limpid stream known as "Mud Creek" while upon the east lies the broad, rolling and productive prairie lands. No prettier site can be found in all the country for a city, overlooking, as it does, for miles, the surrounding country.

Looking to the south and southeast one beholds the beautiful mounds, and undulating prairies, and the fringes of timber along the streams, where are to be found the farms and the happy homes of the Cherokee and Delaware Indians who have accepted the fruits of the onward march of civilization, and, with their schools and churches, living in their neat little residences upon their well kept farms.

Looking off to the southwest as far as the eye can reach, are to be seen hills and rolling lands, where roam vast herds of cattle of the Osage Indian Reservation. The Osage, unlike his Cherokee and Delaware brethren, has persistently refused to become civilized to any great extent. He disdains "store clothes," and clings to the blanket and breech clout of his fathers. Perhaps he can be said to be civilized, only in one particular, and that is, that he gets drunk just like a civilized white man.

Late in the fall of 1869, the first white settlers settled upon what is now the townsite of Caney. Among them were Jasper N. West

and family, J. H. Smith and family, Berryman Smith, a single man, and "Uncle John" Hodges and family. Of those earliest settlers "Uncle John" Hodges, alone is with us. He has been a continuous resident of Caney from that time to the present. Jasper N. West was Caney's first postmaster.

During the winter of 1869 Dr. J. W. Bell and family came to Caney and he was the first tradesman, conducting a small store in which was kept for sale, (in a small box house made of native lumber, which was probably hauled here from somepoint east) a little sugar, coffee, meat, flour and, as we were informed by one who was there, a goodly supply of clothes pins. This structure was erected near what is now the crossing of State street and Fourth avenue, at the public well, from which particular point nearly all the earlier transfers of title to real property had their starting.

In the early part of the summer of 1870, O. M. Smith engaged in the mercantile business. "O. M.," as he was familiarly called, was then a single man. He had a small stock of general merchandise, and he cooked, ate and slept in the store building. Jasper N. West built the first log house and it was located on what is now Block 61, and was the first and only place for the weary to take rest, and have their hunger satisfied and thirst quenched. Old "Uncle Robert" Hammill, in the early spring of 1870, came in with his two sons, with four hoke of Texas cattle, and located on the farm now owned by Thomas Steel, and about the same time "Uncle John" Badgley located the place now owned by J. A. Fleener. Jasper N. Smith commenced, and probably completed, in the early part of 1870, a frame building for a hotel, on the site now occupied by the Reed residence, in block 54, moving from his log house to the same.

Bill Copen was Caney's first blacksmith. Dr. A. M. Taylor who came in November 1870, was Caney's first physician, and the doctor is still with us. James G. Woodruff came in during the early summer of 1870. Jasper N. West, J. H. Smith, Berryman Smith and James G. Woodruff took the four claims cornering at a point where the public well, spoken of above, was located and conceived the idea of locating and plotting a town. On May 11, 1870, Capt. J. E. Stone dropped in among them and the four claim holders, above named with Stone and G. M. Smith, caused to be surveyed and plotted what is a portion of the present city of Caney. "Uncle John" Hodges took the claim and made some improvements thereon now owned by S. K. Jack. Levi Glatfelder located and improved the farm together with other lands upon which Mrs. Gladfelter now resides, two miles east of Caney. After the survey and plotting of Caney quite a number of houses were erected and a mail route was established from what was then the village of Parker to Caney and then to St. Paul on the West side of Caney River. From that time on there was a steady stream of immigrants into Caney and township. The latter was rapidly settled up by a thrifty, hardworking, and industrious class of people and business men of all classes began to locate in the village.

From that time on Caney became known as a first class trading point. Being a border town, its business men did a good business with the Indians and the whites residing in the Territory.

In July 1885, Cleveland J. Reynolds started the first paper in Caney, the Caney Chronicle, which has been issued continuously since, and entered upon its eighteenth year. It has been published for the last seven years by H. E. Brighton, is a bright, newsy paper, and has ever stood up loyally for Caney and her best interests.

In 1886 a proposition was submitted to the citizens of Caney township to vote bonds in the sum of \$22,000.00 to aid in the construction of the D. M. & A. R. R. The bonds were voted, the road was built, and thus Caney was placed in closer touch with the outside world. The "freighter" who, with his mule teams, hauled goods from Independence and Coffeyville, went away back and engaged in some other business, while the articles of merchandise and the products of the farm, from that time on, were carried by his fleet-footed competitor, the steam engine and its train of cars. The building of a railroad into Caney really marked the beginning of its business career.

The town continued to grow until on the 5th day of July 1887, it was incorporated as a city of the third class. Its first city election was held, under its charter, on the 18th day of July 1887, in what is now the old school building. The judges of the election were; Dr. A. M. Taylor, John Todd, and P. C. Dosh; Clerks, J. J. Stone and J. P. Stradley.

The first officers of Caney, elected on the above date were: Mayor, P. S. Hollingsworth; Councilmen: Wm. Rogers, Harry Wiltse, J. J. Hemphill, J. A. Sumer, and W. B. McWilliams; Police Judge: F. H. Hooker. F. H. Dye was appointed and served as the first city clerk.

In the year 1891, Cleveland J. Reynolds, who was then the owner and publisher of the Caney Times, a weekly newspaper which he had founded some time before, conceived and put into execution a plan for connecting all the towns of Montgomery county by telephone. Being a man of indomitable will and untiring energy, he at once organized the Caney Telephone Company, and, within a few months

thereafter, the "hello" girl was at her post of duty in every town in the county. The completion of this telephone line marked a new era in the history of Caney, as well as that of the entire county, as it was the first telephone line ever built in the county.

In 1892, Col. S. M. Porter, of Caney, J. A. Bartles, of Bartlesville, I. T., and others, organized and chartered the Kansas, Oklahoma Central & Southwestern Railway Company for the purpose of building a line of road from Caney, south, through Oklahoma and on southwest into Texas; and a franchise for the building of said road was granted by Congress on December 21, 1893. The construction of said road was begun in 1898 and in the spring of 1899 the old company sold out to the A. T., & S. F. Ry. Co., and the road was completed from Caney to Owassa, I. T., a distance of about sixty miles, thus giving Caney two separate and competing lines of road. To Col. Porter is due, in a large measure, the credit for the building of the Santa Fe, for he worked without faltering for about eight years on the project before it finally succeeded, making one trip to Europe, and countless trips to Washington, New York, and Chicago.

But Caney, like other cities in Montgomery county, owes its greatest prosperity and growth to the finding of natural gas in the earth beneath it. In the year of 1900, the Caney Gas Company, composed entirely of Caney men, was organized and began prospecting for gas and oil. After putting down several dry holes, they succeeded, in the fall of 1901, in striking a very strong flow of gas about two miles northeast of town and in short time thereafter they secured another well which has proved to be the strongest well in the Kansas field, having a rock pressure of 660 pounds and producing 16,000,000 cu. ft. of gas every 24 hours. They also have a very good oil well in the same field. There are now six different gas and oil companies

operating in the Caney field, and the prospects are very flattering.

In 1902 the members of the Caney Gas Company organized the Caney Brick Company and put in one of the largest and best vitrified brick plants in the country, with a capacity of 100,000 brick per day. They are turning out a first-class brick and have shipped as high as sixty cars of brick in one month besides supplying the home demand. They carry a payroll of sixty-five men.

The Cherryvale, Oklahoma and Texas Railway Company was chartered on July 22nd, 1902, with Col. S. M. Porter, of Caney as president for the purpose of constructing a line of railroad from Cherryvale, in Montgomery county, through Caney, to El Paso, Texas, a distance of 900 miles. We are assured that this road will be built in the near future and will be of great benefit to Caney and Montgomery County as it will give us another system and competing line, probably the "Katy" or "Frisco."

Our high pressure and unfailing supply of gas is attracting the attention of various manufacturing enterprises.

Caney is a good place to live. Those who are religiously inclined will find four churches, all having good buildings and resident pastors. They are Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Christians.

Our public schools are first class. At present we have two school buildings, and employ nine teachers, but the growing population will soon require larger and better buildings and more teachers.

Caney has six physicians actively engaged in the practice, and many of them rank among the best physicians of the county. It also has a Sanitarium, run by Dr. T. A. Stevens, to which patients come for treatment from the Territory and all the surrounding counties.

We also have six lawyers who, by hard work, are able to look after the interests of their clients and keep the community quiet a good part of time.

Capt. J. E. Stone, one of the first settlers, and who assisted in laying out the original town site, was elected sheriff of Montgomery County in 1872, and served his county in that capacity faithfully and with credit to himself, and is now Caney's efficient postmaster, having been appointed by President McKinley.

E. B. Skinner, one of Caney's enterprising business men, is just serving the last year of two terms as county treasurer, and Dr. J. A. Rader, one of our leading physicians, is serving his third term as coroner.

J. R. Charlton, one of our attorneys, was elected county attorney of Montgomery county in 1890, and served one term, refusing a renomination.

J. H. Dana, who resided in Caney until the year 1900 was, in that year, elected county attorney, and moved to Independence.

Others of our prominent citizens have been exposed to the dread disease called "cholera" but have never caught it.

Caney has grown from the little hamlet of a few years ago to become one of the best towns in Southern Kansas, having a population of but a little less than 2,000, and we confidently expect to see double that number of people here in the next two years. It will make a good town; first, because of its natural

advantages in location; second, because it has citizens who are public spirited, enterprising and pushing, who do not only have money, but have faith in the future of the city, and therefore do not hesitate to invest their money in public enterprises.

In concluding this brief sketch let me say that as a resident of Kansas for more than twenty-five years, I believe it to be the best state in the Union, that Montgomery county is the coming banner county of the state, and that Caney--well, language fails me, and I can only add that "the half has never been told."

Caney Valley Historical Society

Thomas Brock and S. B. Morehouse—repaired to Verdigris City where, sitting in their wagon, they organized, and appointed a new set of county officers, ordered that the next term of the District Court be held at Independence and that the various county offices be kept there temporarily.

The old board and their appointees, failing to get an order of court requiring the return of the records and offices to Liberty, soon surrendered and matters moved on quietly until the fall election in 1870, when the county seat question was again voted on by the people and Independence chosen by a vote of 839, to 560 for Liberty. This terminated the aspirations of the little city for civic and commercial greatness.

In 1871 the construction of the L. L. & G. Ry. across the east side of the county caused the removal of the village to its present site where, surrounded by a good agricultural region, its business men have continued to enjoy a prosperous country trade, although the place seems to have reached its maximum growth. However, the village is within the gas belt and is now prospecting for oil with a fair probability of finding enough of the black fluid to lubricate the wheels of progress without limit.

The population of Liberty is about 300.

To one of the founders of this village—the late Daniel McTaggart—we are indebted for the demonstration of the fact that cotton can be successfully grown in Southern Kansas. Some years ago quite a colony of Negroes from Texas settled in the Verdigris valley between Coffeyville and Liberty. Soon after the arrival of these people Capt. McTaggart conceived the idea of inducing them to try cotton growing, and, as an inducement, he furnished the seed and installed a gin at his mill near the original townsite. Quite a considerable acreage was planted, and while the yield was not large the fiber was of good quality and the yield per acre large enough to justify the continued production of this important staple as a side crop.

Caney and Elk City

BY J. R. CHARLTON.

Caney, the Queen City of Montgomery county, is situated in the southwest corner of the county, about one mile from the Indian Territory line, and about the same distance from the east line of Chautauqua county. It is built upon a sandy knoll, skirted on the north by the beautiful stream, Cheyenne creek, with its beautiful farms, on the west by the broad and rich valley of the Caney river, and on the south by the classic and limpid stream known as "Mud creek," while upon the east lies the broad, rolling and productive prairie lands. No prettier site can be found in all the county for a city, overlooking, as it does, for miles, the surrounding country.

Looking to the south and the south-east one beholds the beautiful mounds, and undulating prairies, and the fringes of timber along the

streams, where are to be found the farms and the happy homes of the Cherokee and the Delaware Indians, who have accepted the fruits of the onward march of civilization, and, with their schools and churches, living in their neat little residences upon their well kept farms, are a happy and contented people. Looking off to the south-west, as far as the eye can reach, are to be seen the hills and rolling lands, where roam vast herds of cattle of the Osage Indian Reservation. The Osage, unlike his Cherokee and Delaware brethren, has persistently refused to become civilized to any great extent. He disdains "store clothes," and clings to the blanket and breech clout of his fathers. Perhaps he can be said to be civilized, only in one particular, and that is, that he gets drunk just like a civilized white man.

Late in the fall of 1869, the first white settlers settled upon what is now the townsite of Caney. Among them were Jasper N. West and family, J. H. Smith and family, Berryman Smith, a single man, and "Uncle John" Hodges and family. Of those earliest settlers "Uncle John" Hodges, alone, is with us. He has been a continuous resident of Caney from that time to the present. Jasper N. West was Caney's first postmaster. During the winter of 1869 Dr. J. W. Bell and family came to Caney and he was the first tradesman, conducting a small store in which was kept for sale, (in a small box house made of native lumber, which was probably hauled here from some point east,) a little sugar, coffee, meat, flour, and, as we were informed by one who was there, a goodly supply of clothes pins. This structure was erected near what is now the crossing of State street and Fourth avenue, at the public well, from which particular point nearly all the earlier transfers of title to real property had their starting.

In the early part of the summer of 1870, O. M. Smith engaged in the mercantile business. "O. M.," as he was familiarly called, was then a single man. He had a small stock of general merchandise, and he cooked, ate and slept in the store building. Jasper N. West built the first log house and it was located on what is now Block 61, and was the first and only place for the weary to take rest, and have their hunger satisfied and thirst quenched. Old "Uncle Robert" Hammill, in the early spring of 1870, came in with his two sons, with four yoke of Texas cattle, and located on the farm now owned by Thomas Steel, and about the same time "Uncle John" Badgley located the place now owned by J. A. Fleener. Jasper N. Smith commenced, and probably completed, in the early part of 1870, a frame building for a hotel, on the site now occupied by the Reed residence, in Block 54, moving from his log house to the same.

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In 1886 a proposition was submitted to the citizens of Caney township to vote bonds in the sum of \$22,000.00 to aid in the construction of the D. M. & A. R. R. The bonds were voted, the road was built, and thus Caney was placed in closer touch with the outside world. The "freighter" who, with his mule teams, hauled goods from Independence and Coffeyville, went away back and engaged in some other business, while the articles of merchandise and the products of the farm, from that time on, were carried by his fleet-footed competitor, the steam engine and its train of cars. The building of a railroad into Caney really marked the beginning of its business career.

The town continued to grow until on the 5th day of July 1887, it was incorporated as a city of the third class. Its first city election was held, under its charter, on the 18th day of July 1887, in what is now the old school building. The judges of the election were; Dr. A. M. Taylor, John Todd and P. C. Dosh; Clerks, J. J. Stone and J. P. Stradley.

The first officers of Caney, elected on the above date were: Mayor, P. S. Hollingsworth; Councilmen, Wm. Rogers, Harry Wiltse, J. J. Hemphill, J. A. Summer and W. B. McWilliams; Police Judge, F. H. Hooker. F. H. Dye was appointed and served as the first city clerk.

In the year 1891, Cleveland J. Reynolds, who was then the owner and publisher of the Caney Times, a weekly newspaper which he had founded

took the four claims cornering at a point where the public well, spoken of above, was located and conceived the idea of locating and platting a town. On May 11th, 1870, Capt. J. E. Stone dropped in among them, and the four claim holders, above named, with Stone and O. M. Smith, caused to be surveyed and platted what is a portion of the present city of Caney. "Uncle John" Hodges took the claim and made some improvements thereon, now owned by S. K. Jack. Levi Glatfelder located and improved the farm, together with other lands, upon which Mrs. Glatfelder now resides, two miles east of Caney. After the survey and platting of Caney quite a number of houses were erected and a mail route was established from what was then the village of Parker to Caney and then to St. Paul on the west side of Caney river. From that time on there was a steady stream of immigrants into Caney and the township. The latter was rapidly settled up by a thrifty, hardworking and industrious class of people and business men of all classes began to locate in the village.

Caney Valley Historical Society

The town continued to grow until on the 30th day of July 1887 it was incorporated as a city of the third class. Its first city election was held under its charter, on the 18th day of July 1887, in what is now the school building. The judges of the election were: Dr. A. M. Taylor, J. Todd and P. C. Dosh; Clerks, J. J. Stone and J. P. Stradley.

The first officers of Caney, elected on the above date were: Mayor, P. S. Hollingsworth; Councilmen, Wm. Rogers, Harry Wilson, J. Hemphill, J. A. Summer and W. B. McWilliams; Police Judge, F. Hooker. F. H. Dye was appointed and served as the first city clerk.

In the year 1891, Cleveland J. Reynolds, who was then the owner and publisher of the Caney Times, a weekly newspaper which he had four

some time before, conceived and put into execution a plan for connecting all the towns of Montgomery county by telephone. Being a man of indomitable will and untiring energy, he at once organized The Caney Telephone Company, and, within a few months thereafter, the "hello" girl was at her post of duty in every town in the county. The completion of this telephone line marked a new era in the history of Caney, as well as that of the entire county, as it was the first telephone line ever built in the county.

In 1892, Col. S. M. Porter, of Caney, J. A. Bartles, of Bartlesville, I. T., and others, organized and chartered the Kansas, Oklahoma Central & Southwestern Railway Company for the purpose of building a line of road from Caney, south, through Oklahoma and on southwest into Texas; and a franchise for the building of said road was granted by Congress on December 21st, 1893. The construction of said road was begun in 1898 and in the spring of 1899 the old company sold out to the A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co., and the road was completed from Caney to Owassa, I. T., a distance of about sixty miles, thus giving Caney two separate and competing lines of road. To Col. Porter is due, in a large measure, the credit for the building of the Santa Fe, for he worked without faltering for about eight years on the project before it finally succeeded, making one trip to Europe, and countless trips to Washington, New York and Chicago.

But Caney, like other cities in Montgomery county, owes its greatest prosperity and growth to the finding of natural gas in the earth beneath it. In the year 1900 the Caney Gas Company, composed entirely of Caney men, was organized and began prospecting for gas and oil. After putting down several dry holes, they succeeded, in the fall of 1901, in striking a very strong flow of gas about two miles northeast of town, and in a short time thereafter they secured another well which has proved to be the strongest well in the Kansas field, having a rock pressure of 660 pounds and producing 16,000,000 cubic feet of gas every twenty-four hours. They also have a very good oil well in the same field. There are now six different gas and oil companies operating in the Caney field, and the prospects are very flattering.

In 1902 the members of the Caney Gas Company organized the Caney Brick Company and put in one of the largest and best vitrified brick plants in the country, with a capacity of 100,000 brick per day. They are turning out a first-class brick and have shipped as high as sixty cars of brick in one month, besides supplying the home demand. They carry a pay roll of sixty-five men.

The Cherryvale, Oklahoma & Texas Railway Company was chartered on July 22nd, 1902, with Col. S. M. Porter, of Caney, as president, for the purpose of constructing a line of railroad from Cherryvale, in Montgomery county, through Caney, to El Paso, Texas, a distance of 900 miles. We are assured that this road will be built in the near future and will be of

great benefit to Caney and Montgomery county, as it will give us another system and competing line, probably the "Katy" or "Frisco."

Our high pressure and unfailing supply of gas is attracting the attention of various manufacturing enterprises.

Caney is a good place to live. Those who are religiously inclined will find four churches, all having good buildings, and resident pastors. They are the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Christians.

Our public schools are first class. At present we have two school buildings, and employ nine teachers, but the growing population will soon require larger and better buildings and more teachers.

Caney has six physicians actively engaged in the practice, and many of them rank among the best physicians in the county. It also has a Sanitarium, run by Dr. T. A. Stevens, to which patients come for treatment from the Territory and all the surrounding counties.

We also have six lawyers who, by hard work, are able to look after the interests of their clients and keep the community quiet a good part of the time.

Capt. J. E. Stone, one of the first settlers, and who assisted in laying out the original town site, was elected sheriff of Montgomery county in 1872, and served his county in that capacity faithfully and with credit to himself, and is now Caney's efficient postmaster, having been appointed by President McKinley.

E. B. Skinner, one of Caney's enterprising business men, is just serving the last year of two terms as county treasurer, and Dr. J. A. Rader, one of our leading physicians, is serving his third term as coroner.

J. R. Charlton, one of our attorneys, was elected county attorney of Montgomery county in 1890 and served one term, refusing a re-nomination.

J. H. Dana, who resided in Caney until the year 1900 was, in that year, elected county attorney, and moved to Independence.

Others of our prominent citizens have been exposed to the dread disease called "office" but have never caught it.

Caney has grown from the little hamlet of a few years ago to become one of the best towns in Southern Kansas, having a population of but a little less than 2,000, and we confidently expect to see double that number of people here in the next two years. It will make a good town, first: because of its natural advantages in location; second, because it has citizens who are public spirited, enterprising and pushing, who do not only have money, but have faith in the future of the city, and therefore do not hesitate to invest their money in public enterprises.

In concluding this brief sketch let me say that as a resident of Kansas for more than twenty-five years, I believe it to be the best state in the Union; that Montgomery county is the coming banner county of the state,