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ORLA SAMUEL CASAD: CONTRIBUTIONS OF A COMMON MAN

ORLA SAMUEL CASAD: CONTRIBUTIONS OF A COMMON MAN

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Arts

Cherie' Finley Weible

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Pittsburg, Kansas

December 1994

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There are several people who helped with the completion of this thesis, for all of whom I am grateful, but there are a few individuals I would like to thank specifically.

I wish to thank Mr. Gene DeGruson for his help in locating numerous sources, providing typed copies of the Cherie' Finley Weible Cased letters and reading the first drafts of this project.

Thank you, Mrs. Suzanna Long, for editing rough drafts and providing helpful suggestions to improve the quality of the finished product.

I also extend thanks to Harold and Lela Simpson for their encouragement, support, and friendship throughout this project. Their interest and helpful input kept me writing.

Approved: ly, and most importantly, thanks to my husband

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Special Collections, Axe Library

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America's future.

This thesis uses the story of Orla S. Casad to illustrate one man's experience and participation in the creation of our country as we know it today. It is

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

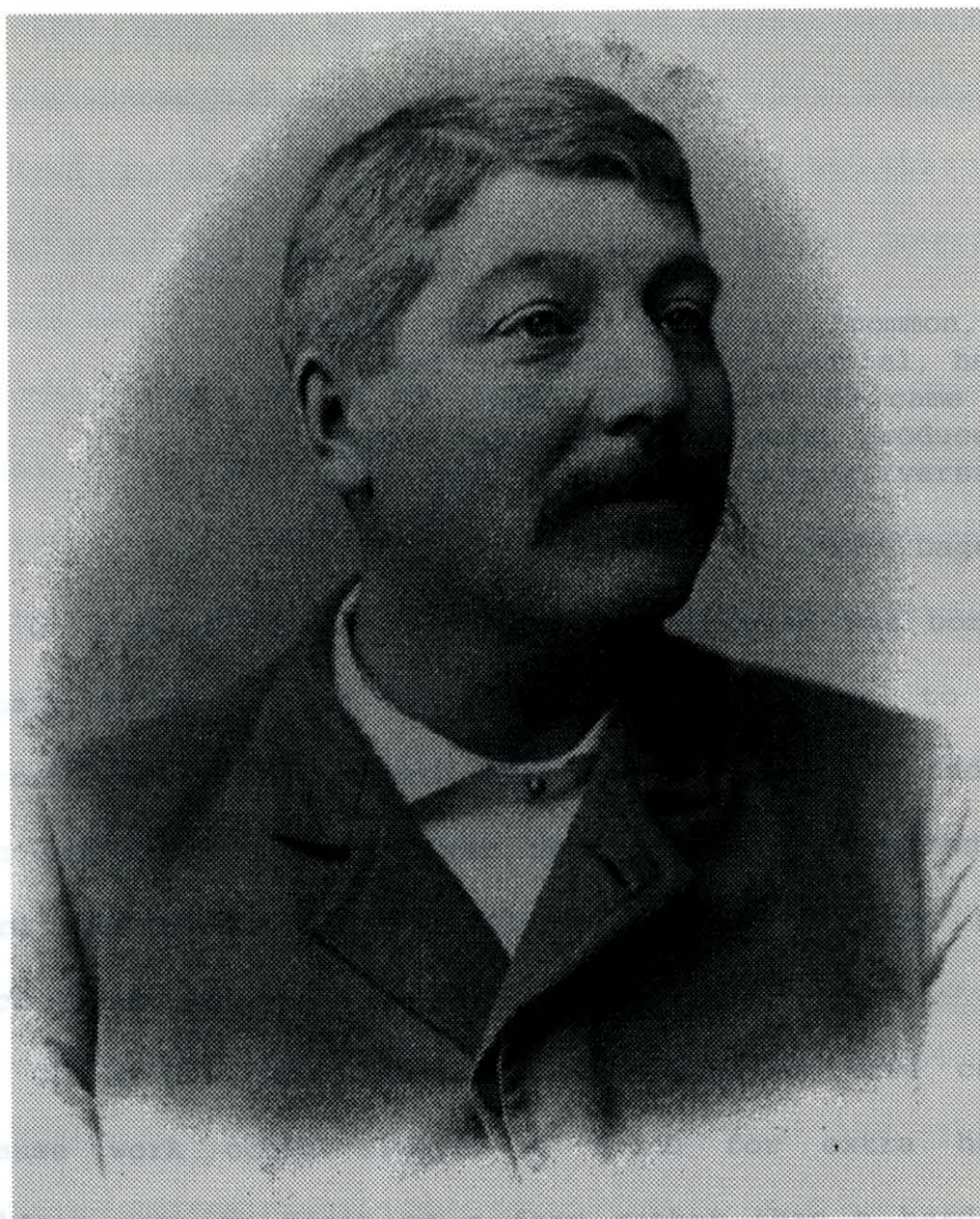
Throughout the ages of time, it was the common man who built the stairways to fame climbed by only a chosen few. In the span of Orla Samuel Casad's life, 1846 to 1928, the United States experienced a reform and evolution of its social and political structure, along with the opening of the era of expansionism. Casad's paths led him to participate in the early settling of La Mesilla, New Mexico, as well as in the establishment of Pittsburg, Kansas. His involvement in political organizations, the military, and many fraternal and social groups allowed him to speak his opinion and influence his community. During his lifetime, Casad was representative of the spirit and backbone of America; for it was the common man who plowed the fields, raised the church steeples, established communities, and fought in wars. The common man built the foundation of America's future.

This thesis uses the story of Orla S. Casad to illustrate one man's experience and participation in the creation of our country as we know it today. It is

important to study Casad's life because he, like many others of his time, was striving to change the world around him. As a newspaper editor, educator, and lawyer, Casad became an influential member of his community. As he influenced Pittsburg's social, political, and religious attitudes, Pittsburg also influenced him by giving him roots and a new place to start a home and family. By following Casad's story through Crawford County, we are studying the era of our ancestors that has created the world we live in today. Casad's life is illustrative of our country's past as a nation of common people who developed a unique system of government where citizens are guaranteed basic rights and freedoms. Orla S. Casad was one of the common men that fought to keep those liberties for the future. By reliving, retelling, and recording the life of Orla S. Casad, we pay tribute not only to him, but to the millions of others who created the paths which ensured a tomorrow for future generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Orla S. Casad", with a long, sweeping underline.

Figure 1. Photo and signature, Orla S. Casad, ca. 1890.
Source: Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library,
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas



Orla S. Casad

Figure 1. Photo and signature, Orla S. Casad, ca. 1880.

Source: Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library,
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

CHAPTER II

CASAD IN EARLY LIFE

The Making of a Man--1846 to 1877

While Orla was certainly "common," as opposed to famous or influential, he was not, I think, ordinary. He came from vigorous pioneer stock which produced in every generation hard working, versatile and ambitious people.¹

--Julia Dagenais

On a cold winter day, Orla Samuel Casad was born on January 31, 1846, in Clinton County, Illinois, to John Milton Casad and Elizabeth Ann Moore Casad.² He and his twin brother, Charles Calmer Casad, were the second and third sons born to this family. An older brother, Edgar Finch Casad had been born in 1842.³

In earlier generations, large families were common because work could always be found for extra hands. Children were an asset on a farm rather than a hardship; they contributed more to the economy of the household than

¹ Julia Dagenais, Wichita, Kansas, to Cherie' Finley Weible, Pittsburg, Kansas, 28 May 1994. Original in possession of author.

² Certified copy of page 801 of Casad Family Bible.

³ For a clearer understanding of the Casad families and relationships, see Appendix A. Genealogy.

they took from it. By 1850, the Casad family consisted of five children, all born in Illinois.⁴ The family had remained in the area, unlike many others at the time, establishing a farm and household instead of migrating farther west.⁵

Their father, John Milton Casad, was born in Ohio and raised in Clinton County, Illinois, where his parents settled. "Milt" Casad, as Orla's father was called by the family, was the son of Dr. Anthony Wayne Casad and Anna Stites Casad. They raised a family of fourteen children, Milt being the third child.⁶ The patriarch of the Casad family, Anthony, was known in the Clinton County area as a physician, farmer, teacher, tailor, and Methodist Episcopal preacher. Truly a pioneer, Anthony Casad knew the importance of the versatility necessary for the survival of the community and family life. His son Milt and grandson Orla also filled their lives with a variety of occupations, making them as versatile as their pioneer ancestor.

⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Clinton Co., Illinois, p.335, National Archives Microfilm M-432, Roll 100.

⁵ Johni Cerny and Arlene Eakle, Guide To Research: Case Studies in American Genealogy (Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 1985), 308.

⁶ Reverend Lydia Casad Sexton, Autobiography (Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1885), 1.

Although Anthony's early life was tumultuous, he soon settled down and proceeded to raise and care for his family. A description of Anthony's early manhood is found in his sister Lydia Casad Sexton's autobiography.

In the Spring of 1854, the family of Dr. A. W. Casad moved west from Clinton County, Illinois, to the village of Summerfield in St. Clair County. The Casads laid out this town and built new businesses and institutions.⁷ Anthony's son, Samuel Casad, established the first building in the town. "Samuel S. Casad was not only the first resident of the village, but also the first merchant, and did much toward building up the place." Samuel kept a small stock of general store goods and served as the community's first postmaster.⁸

Although constructed much earlier, McKendree College was another important addition to the county. Dr. Anthony Casad was a major contributor for the completion of this project.⁹ Throughout his life in the counties of Clinton

⁷ For a complete listing of Anthony Casad's land purchases, see Table 11, Appendix C.

⁸ See Anthony Casad, pp. 245-25, State of Illinois Archives Division, Public Domain and Land Trust Record Compiled Listing.

⁹ History of Saint Clair County, Illinois (Philadelphia: Brink, McDonough, and Co., 1881), 348.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 116.

and St. Clair, Dr. Casad purchased large tracts of land,¹⁰ which he later shared with his children.¹¹ By the 1850s Dr. Anthony Casad had amassed 1,198.43 acres in the two counties. Over fifteen separate purchases were made, most of which recorded the purchase price at \$1.25 per acre. In four of his purchases, Anthony paid \$2.00 per acre.¹² One source, an obituary for A. W. Casad, indicates that some of the land was obtained as war bounty from service in the War of 1812. Although Anthony Casad served as a surgeon of the 49th Regiment Volunteers of Illinois, no record was found to establish wartime service or land given to him by the United States government to compensate for such service.¹³ Migrating along with Dr. Anthony Casad and his younger children were his older children and their families including his oldest son Thomas, age 38; Samuel, age 29; and Isaac, age 26.¹⁴

¹⁰ For a complete listing of Anthony Casad's land purchases, see Table IV. in Appendix C.

¹¹ Entry for Anthony Wayne Casad; pp. 4365-66; State of Illinois, Archives Division: Public Domain Sales Land Tract Record Compiled Listing.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Illinois State Archives, Index to Service Records.

¹⁴ 1860 U.S. Census, Saint Clair Co., Illinois, (Township 2, NE 6W), P.604B, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll 225.

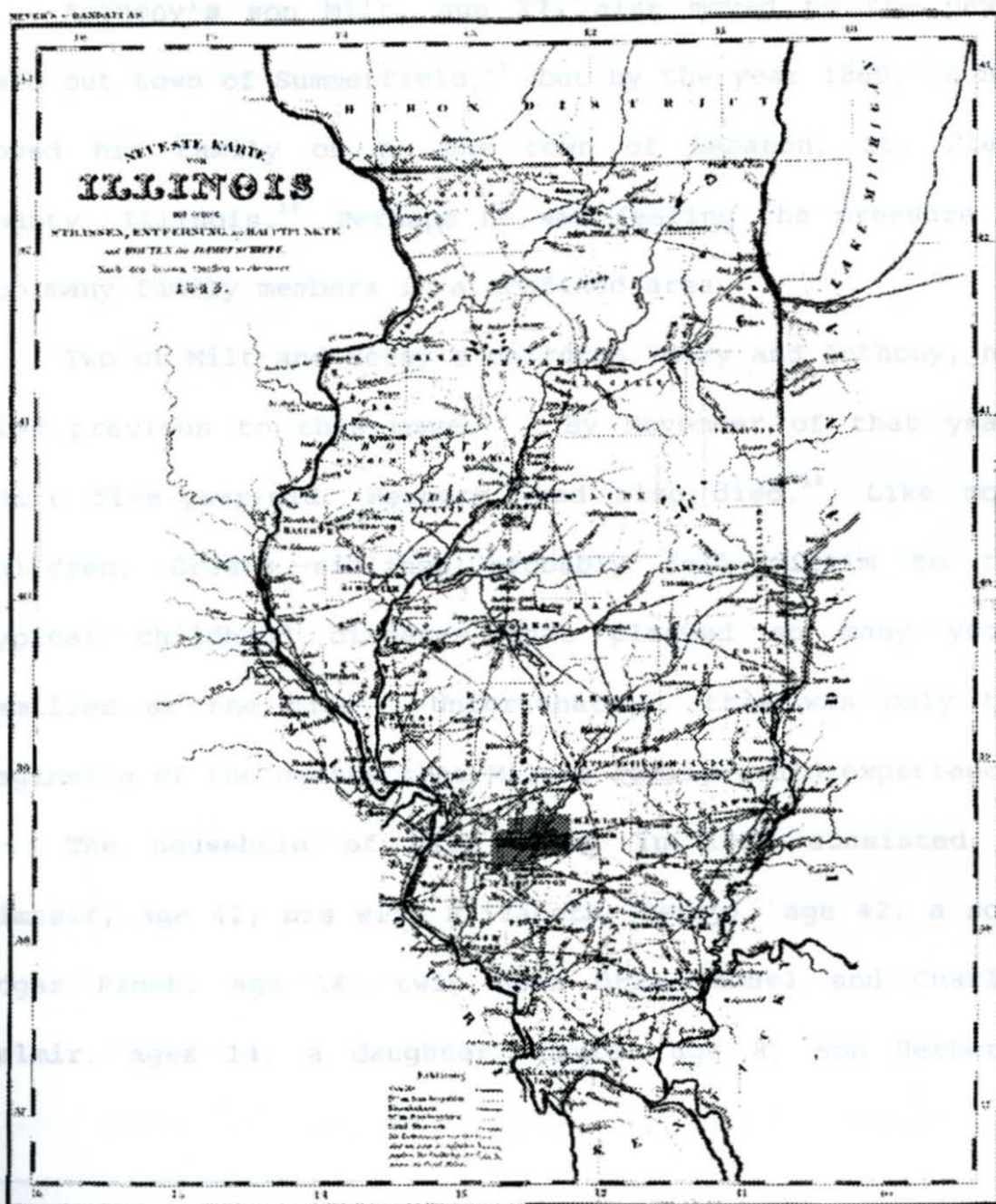


Figure 2. Map of Illinois, 1845.

Source: Illinois State Historical Library.

The shaded area designates Clinton County, Illinois,
birthplace of O. S. Casad.

Anthony's son Milt, age 37, also moved to the newly laid out town of Summerfield,¹⁵ but by the year 1860, he had moved his family on to the town of Lebanon, St. Clair County, Illinois.¹⁶ Perhaps he was feeling the pressure of too many family members in a confined area.

Two of Milt and Betsy's children, Mary and Anthony, had died previous to this move.¹⁷ By November of that year, their five-year-old, Herbert, had also died.¹⁸ Like most children, Orla's siblings probably fell victim to the typical childhood diseases that plagued so many young families at the time. Unfortunately, this was only the beginning of the deaths that Milt's family would experience.

The household of Milt Casad in 1860 consisted of himself, age 42; his wife Elizabeth (Betsy), age 42; a son, Edgar Finch, age 18; twin sons Orla Samuel and Charles Calmir, ages 14; a daughter, Laura, age 8; son Herbert,

¹⁵ History of Saint Clair County, Illinois (Philadelphia: Brink, McDonough, and Co., 1881), 348.

¹⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Saint Clair Co., Illinois, (Township 2, NE 6W), p.604B, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll 225.

¹⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Clinton Co., Illinois, p.335, National Archives Microfilm M-432, Roll 100.; 1860 U.S. Census, Saint Clair Co., Illinois, (Township 2, NE 6W p.604B, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll 225.

¹⁸ Headstone inscription for Herbert Casad, Summerfield Cemetery, Saint Clair Co., Illinois. (One mile south of city limits on Main Street). Author's visit 21 August 1994.

age 4; son Casiss, age 2; and a German servant girl, Barbara Benzer, age 18. Milt was self-employed as a farmer whose real estate was valued at approximately \$500.00. This figure includes the acreage as well as any improvements on the land. With a value of \$500.00, Milt may have owned up to one hundred acres. His personal property was valued at \$800.00. This figure includes a wagon, team of horses, plow, and various other farm implements.¹⁹ Because agricultural income is always related to the market value of the products available to be sold, a search of contemporary newspapers show a representative price of products the average farm of the area would have produced. Whenever Milt sold his goods, he could make a relatively decent income for his labors.

The current market values of agricultural goods at the time the Casad farm was operating is shown in Table I. The first price is the amount that the farmer would have received at the time he sold his goods, and the second price is the retail price.

¹⁹ 1860 U.S. Census, Saint Clair Co., Illinois, (Township 2 NE 6W), p.604B, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll 225.

Table I. Retail Market, 24 May, 1861.

Wheat/per bushel	\$1.25	\$1.30
Corn/per bushel	.20	.23
Hay/in bales	.85	.90
Butter/in pounds	.15	.20
Oats/per bushel	.18	.20
Barley/per bushel	.65	.75
Wood/per cord	2.50	3.00
Apples/per bushel	.75	1.00

Source: The Belleville Weekly Advocate.

Although the details and facts of Orla Casad's childhood are grossly inadequate, one can put many pieces of his life together through records and events of the time. It is probable that he assisted his father and brothers with ordinary farming chores, such as feeding and caring for livestock, carrying wood for the stove, planting and harvesting crops, and hoeing cockleburrs out of the fields.

As an older child, he also may have helped with younger siblings, but with the presence of a servant girl in the home, he probably did not have many such responsibilities. Orla attended school regularly along with his siblings, learning the basics and building a foundation which would eventually lead him to McKendree College.²⁰

His parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The family probably attended church, prayed at mealtime, and read from the Bible at home. Anthony Casad's father had been a Baptist minister in New Jersey; however, it is not unusual that the younger Casads were associated with the Methodists, the largest religious denomination in Illinois in 1850.²¹

With the deaths of Orla's siblings, Mary and Anthony, who were two and four years younger than he respectively, the young man experienced grief and sorrow at an early age. Infant mortality during this time period was approximately forty percent and the Casad family is a sad illustration of this reality.²² When Orla was fifteen, he also dealt with

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Alice Eichholz, ed., Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992), 185.

²² "Forty Per Cent," Temple Bar, 8:513.

the loss of his father, who died from tuberculosis. By the time he was seventeen, six members of his family had died. The remaining family were his mother Betsy, Finch, Laura, and Orla. It was quite a struggle for the family to make ends meet and Betsy took in washings and boarders to add to whatever Finch and Orla could contribute.²³

Julia Dagenais, Orla Casad's great-niece, reports that her grandmother asserted "when Finch was born Betsy heard a voice from (presumably) heaven saying, 'Betsy, here is the staff of your old age'."²⁴ Apparently, this message allowed Orla the freedom to leave home while Finch cared for their mother. Additionally, their sister Laura had suffered from a severe fever in childhood, "which left her not totally disabled, but 'disagreeable' to the extent that Finch felt he could never marry and ask anyone to share his responsibility for Laura."²⁵

Another important clue provided by the 1860 Census is the location of the Babcock family. While Orla was growing up and working hard on the farm, his wife-to-be was

²³ Julia Dagenais, Wichita, Kansas, to Cherie' Finley Weible, Pittsburg, Kansas, 28 May 1994. Original in possession of author.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

enumerated in the town of Lebanon also. Alice M. (Allie) Babcock, age 5, was listed with her father William, mother Martha, and sister Kate. It is significant that William Babcock's real estate was valued at \$1,000 and his personal property was valued at \$10,000. His occupation as a nurseryman allowed him to provide his children with many luxuries.²⁶ This caused problems for Orla and Allie early in their marriage as Orla tried to provide the very best for his wife. entered the Union Army on May 5, 1862, in Cairo,

Milt's family and the rest of the Casad family did not live in the same town, but it is reasonable to assume that they saw each other often, since Lebanon is only three miles west of Summerfield.²⁷ Because of the large number of family members in the area, Orla was probably influenced by his uncles, aunts, and cousins. Orla, a young man seeking role models, was more susceptible to influence after the death of his father. There are many similarities between the father's and son's life-styles. Orla, like his father, was a soldier, church member, homesteader, Mason, and Justice of

²⁶ Thomas Casad, *Memories of the West*, p. 10. Orla Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 24 June 1930. The Casad correspondence is located in Special Collections, DePaul University Library, 2315 North Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and is the source for this and all missing quotations.

²⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Saint Clair County, Illinois. p.601, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll 225.

²⁷ World Book Atlas (Chicago: World Book, Inc., 1990), 240.

the Peace. He saw the importance of his father's participation in community activities and made an effort to do the same when his own time came to be an influential citizen. In need of a role model, he may have chosen his Uncle Thomas Casad, as later correspondence seems to indicate.²⁸ In the meantime, more important issues were on the minds of all Americans as the onset of Southern secession took place.

Orla entered the Union Army on May 5, 1862, in Cairo, Illinois. He served in Company B of the 62nd Regiment of the Illinois Infantry as an orderly and nurse in the Regimental hospital located in Kenton, Tennessee, and later in Richview and Jackson, Tennessee.²⁹

The shaded area designates St. Clair County, Illinois. Clinton County, Illinois, is located directly east of the shaded area.

Although military records for Orla show that he was eighteen years old in 1862, his true chronological age was sixteen and a half. The young man was described as being 5' 3" in stature with a fair complexion, dark hair, and blue

²⁸ Thomas Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Orla Samuel Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 20 June 1875. The Casad correspondence is located in Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, and is the source for this and all ensuing quotations.

²⁹ "Military Service Record for Orla S. Casad," File: Co. B, 62 IL Infantry, Records of the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

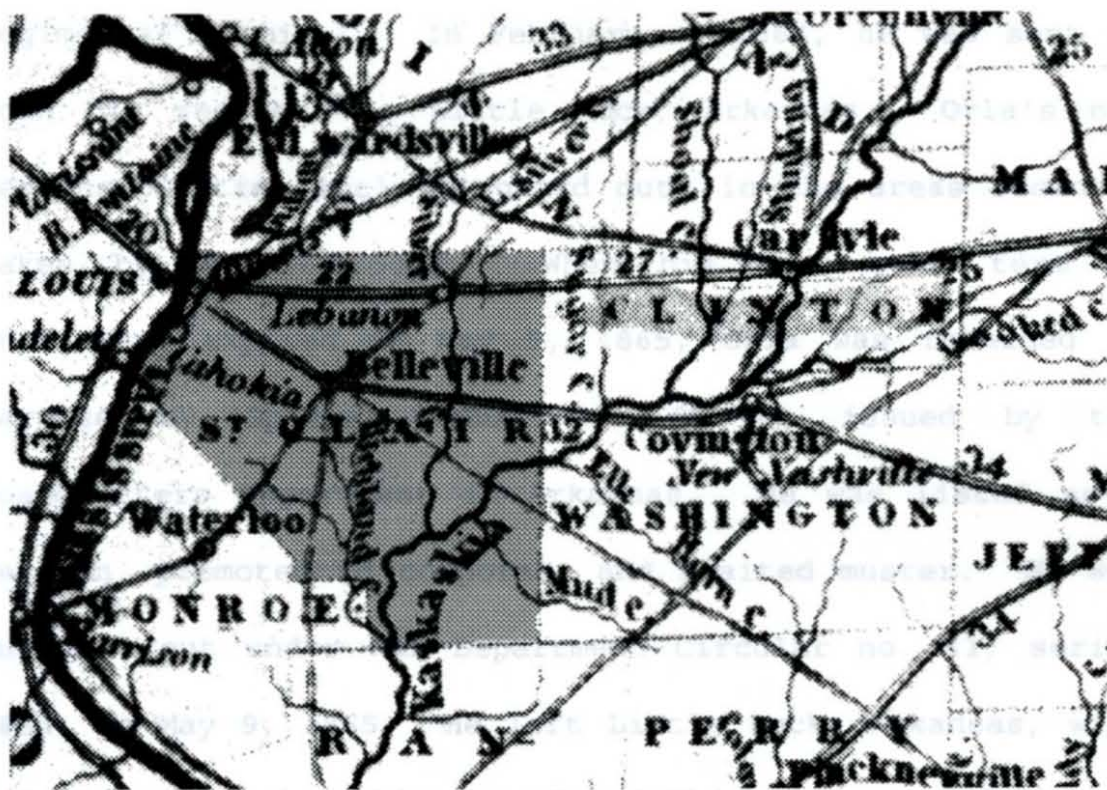


Figure 3. Map of St. Clair County, Illinois, 1845.

Source: Illinois State Historical Library.

The shaded area designates St. Clair County, Illinois.

Clinton County, Illinois, is located directly east of the shaded area.

Although military records for Orla show that he was eighteen years old in 1862, his true chronological age was sixteen and a half. The young man was described as being 5' 9" in stature with a fair complexion, dark hair, and blue eyes.³⁰ Throughout 1862 and 1863, Orla was on duty at the

³⁰ Frederick H. Dyer, *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (New York, 1899). ³⁰ Ibid. This coincides with the information in Orla's service reports.

regimental hospital.³⁰ In February of 1864, he was sent to join his regiment in Little Rock, Arkansas. Orla's new responsibilities included guard duty in the areas recently taken by Union troops. When his three-year term of enlistment expired on May 5, 1865, Orla was retained in service by Special Order No. 98 as issued by the Headquarters Department in Arkansas.³¹ He was listed as a veteran, promoted to corporal, and awaited muster. He was mustered out under War Department Circular no. 41, series 1864, on May 9, 1865. He left Little Rock, Arkansas, with \$24.73, advanced to him for the clothing he returned to the Army.³¹

After its formation, the 62nd Regiment of the Illinois infantry was assigned to duty in Tennessee as railroad guard on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, near Crockett's Station. The infantry then moved to Jackson.³² The infantry saw action at Salem Cemetery and Holly Springs before assisting in General Frederick Steele's Campaign against Little Rock, Arkansas, in September of 1863. By the time Orla was

³⁰ "Plan Military Writings for Judge O. S. Reed," *Washington Post*, 21 Feb. 1868, p. 4, cols. 1-4.

³¹ "Military Pension Record for Orla S. Reed," File No. 401, 415, 421, Records of the Veterans' Administration (Record Group 13), National Archives and Records, Washington, D.C.

³² Frederick H. Dyer, Compendium of the War of the Rebellion (New York, 1959), 3:1074. This coincides with the information on Orla's service records.

finally removed as an orderly at the hospital and put on guard duty, the action had long since finished. Orla's obituary states that he participated in the engagements at Clarendon, Beauvo Matea, and the capture of Little Rock, Arkansas, although his service record does not account for any action in these battles.³³ While this could be a discrepancy in records, it is more likely that Orla's youth and ill health, kept him as an orderly in the hospital--as his service and pension records indicate.³⁴

Although Orla may have later felt the need to fabricate a more active wartime service, his time as a hospital orderly was neither wasted nor unheroic. A total of 263 men from the regiment died while in service. Nine officers and 251 enlisted men succumbed to disease, something with which Orla was very familiar. The regiment had three enlisted men killed or mortally wounded.³⁵ Orla would have personally known many of these men, and it is likely that many other regiments in the vicinity would have

³³ "Plan Military Rites for Judge O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Headlight, 25 May 1928, p. 6, cols. 3-4.

³⁴ "Military Pension Record for Orla S. Casad," File No. SC1.615.361, Records of the Veterans' Administration (Record Group 15), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

³⁵ Frederick H. Dyer, Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, (New York, 1959), 3:1074.

had their field hospitals in the same area. Orla saw many of the horrors of war, some of which are mentioned in histories of the time:

Largely predominating on both sides were the wounds inflicted by the rifled musket, carrying its conical ball of an ounce or more in weight. These wounds differed in some important and very material characteristics from all gunshot wounds in preceding wars. . . . The old round ball, of low velocity, caused many fractures in bones of the extremities. But it never produced such shattering, comminution, and amount of bone destruction and injury as did the heavy conical ball of increased velocity.³⁶

Other wounds were fatal to their victims:

Conical-ball wounds in the abdomen were nearly always fatal, far more so than those produced by the round ball with lower velocity. The intestines, in the former case, were generally perforated; in the latter, they often escaped this injury by being pushed aside by the slower moving round ball fired from the smooth-bore gun. The reverse of this was the case in wounds of the chest, since the round ball bruised and lacerated a large area of lung tissue, while the more swiftly moving conical ball often produced a clean-cut wound.³⁷

Orla Casad's twin brother Charles C. Casad, served in the military as well. Charles served with Company E of the Second Illinois Regiment of United States Cavalry. His enlistment began on December 1, 1861, at

³⁶ Holland Thompson, ed., Prisons and Hospitals, vol. 7 of The Photographic History of the Civil War, ed., Francis Trevelyan Miller, (Springfield, Massachusetts: Patriot Publishing Co., 1911), 262.

³⁷ Ibid., 264.

Summerfield, Illinois, when he was nearly sixteen years old. Even though Charles furnished his own horse and equipment in the service of his country, his "extreme youth and physical inability from bodily weakness . . . from a severe attack of pneumonia" left him unable to perform his duties as a Cavalry soldier according to the Company's Captain, Samuel P. Tipton.³⁸ On March 21, 1862, in Paducah, Kentucky, Charles was issued a certificate of disability for discharge because of his weakened condition. One week later, he died in the Paducah General Hospital. During his short time in the service, Charles had been on duty as General John Alexander McClernand's orderly.³⁹

For the duration of Charles' service, Company E of the 2nd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Cavalry was operating in the area of southeastern Missouri and northwestern Kentucky.⁴⁰ Charles was buried in the Summerfield Cemetery, near other

³⁸ "Military Service Record for Charles C. Casad," File: Co. F, 2 IL Cavalry, Records of the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Frederick H. Dyer, Compendium of the War of the Rebellion (New York: 1959), 3:1021, 22. The 2nd Regiment would continue to serve throughout the war in the lower Mississippi sector, covering the states of Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida. Perhaps the most important assignment was their participation in the assaults on Vicksburg in May of 1863. The Regiment lost eight officers and fifty enlisted men in action and three officers and 173 enlisted men to disease. Their total losses were 234 men, one of whom was Charles C. Casad.

family members. His simple headstone is weathered, but the outline of a Union Army shield and his regiment inscription are still legible.⁴¹

His mother, eligible for a pension following his death, applied for it after the war. In 1890, Betsy Casad was allowed a dependent mother's pension of twelve dollars a month, which she collected until her death.⁴²

At the time of Charles' death, Orla had not yet entered the Army. Perhaps the death of his twin brother provoked him into action, for he enlisted six weeks later.

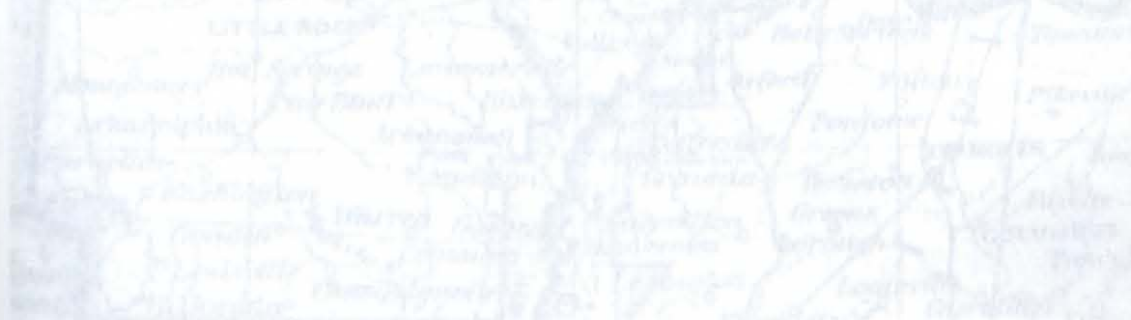


Figure 4. Map of Lower Mississippi Sector, ca. 1861.
Source: Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the
Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865.

The map shows the areas of southern Illinois, western Kentucky and Tennessee, and Arkansas, where Orla and Charles Casad served in the Union Army.

⁴¹ Headstone inscription for Charles C. Casad, Summerfield Cemetery, Saint Clair Co., Illinois. (One mile south of city limits on Main Street). Author's visit 21 August 1994.

⁴² "Military Pension Record for Charles C. Casad," File No. MO C 305-503, Records of the Veterans' Administration (Record Group 15), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.

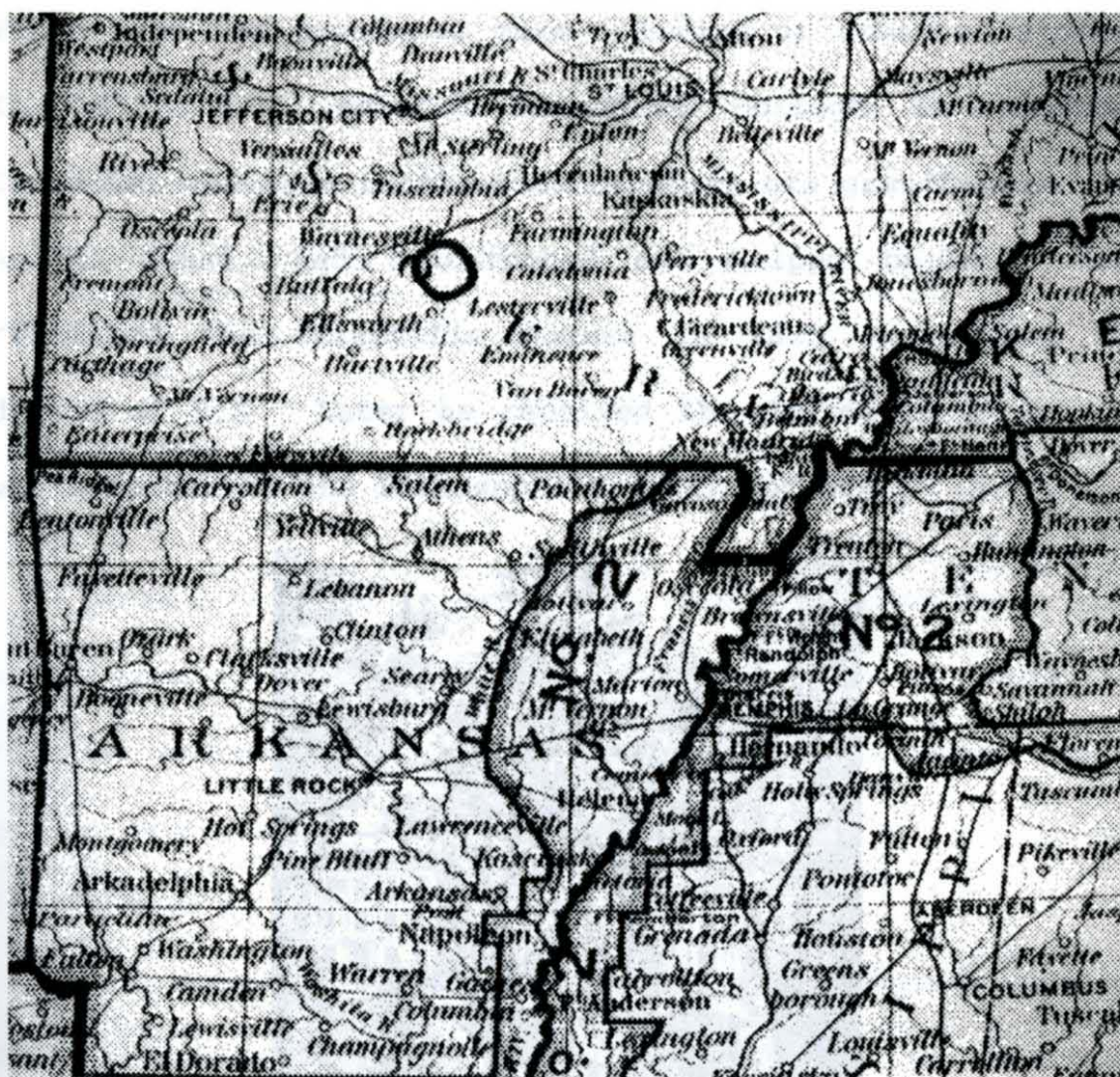


Figure 4. Map of Lower Mississippi Sector, ca. 1861.
Source: Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865.

The map shows the areas of southern Illinois, western Kentucky and Tennessee, and Arkansas, where Orla and Charles Casad served in the Union Army.

Orla Casad returned to Summerfield, Illinois, after his service in the Civil War to farm with his older brother

Finch, who was trying to make a living at tobacco farming. In 1872, Orla entered McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois, the same institution to which his grandfather, Dr. A. W. Casad, had contributed and helped build. Orla "finished the Scientific Course in 1875, receiving the degree of B.S. Later he received the degree of LL.B. He was a member of the Philosophian [sic] Society."⁴³

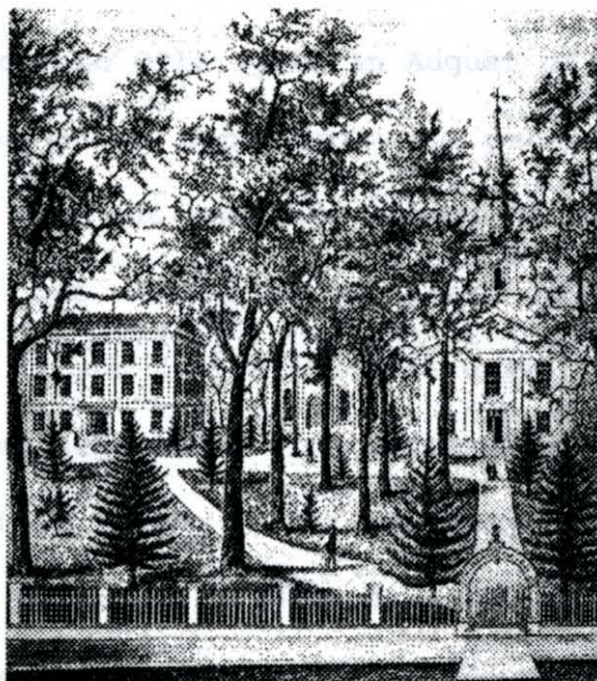


Figure 5. Drawing of McKendree College.

Source: History of St. Clair County, Illinois (Philadelphia: Brink, McDonough, and Co., 1881), 115.

⁴³ Centennial McKendree College, (Lebanon, Illinois: McKendree College, 1928), 240.

In 1875, Orla received a letter from his Uncle Thomas Casad, who had migrated from Illinois to New Mexico, with intermediate stops in Missouri, Kansas, and California:⁴⁴

We have been here now about six months and so far as I have seen the country I am well pleased with it[.] The Val[ley] of the Rio Grande is a fine body of land[.] The climate is a verry [sic] pleasant one neither hot in summer or cold in winter. I will send you some papers the Mesilla News in each copy of which you will find an article over my signature description of the country to which I call your attention[.]⁴⁵

Thomas wrote to Orla again in August of that year, once again promising of an opportunity to publish a newspaper. "If you would come out and take charge of the paper I will either buy it out entire or at least get a controlling interest in it if you filled the Bill well."⁴⁶

Orla became acquainted with Alice Mary Babcock, and the couple decided to marry. The ceremony was performed by

John W. Locke, president of McKendree College and a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, on September 20, 1876, at Summerfield, Illinois. Orla was twenty-nine at the time,

Attempting to get a foothold in New Mexico Territory.

⁴⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Dona Ana County, Territory of New Mexico, p.13, National Archives Microfilm T9, Roll 802.

⁴⁵ Thomas Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Orla Samuel Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 20 June 1875.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 8 August 1875.

and Allie was twenty-two.⁴⁷ Their first child, Ethel Estella Casad, was born the following year on December 5, 1877.⁴⁸ As the couple was purchasing household items, they incurred large debts as Orla tried to provide the best for his new wife. His simple teachers' salary and the occasional fees he received as an attorney were not enough to support their spending habits.

In January of 1878, Orla went to Mesilla, New Mexico, to inspect the area that his Uncle Thomas had described to him. Whether the towns of Summerfield and Lebanon seemed cramped for a young Casad, or the young man needed a father-like figure, Orla commenced upon his journey searching for a new beginning. By June of 1878, Orla had traveled from Illinois to New Mexico, spending a short time in Colorado.⁴⁹

Was his Uncle Thomas supposed to make a man of this restless nephew? Or did Orla truly see westward expansion and New Mexico as a solution to make a new start and pay off his debts? Whichever the case, Orla spent almost two years attempting to get a foothold in New Mexico Territory.

⁴⁷ Marriage License for Orla S. Casad and Alice M. Babcock, 2 September 1876, St. Clair County, Illinois.

⁴⁸ Certified copy of page 801 of Casad Family Bible.

⁴⁹ Orla Samuel Casad, El Moro, Colorado, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 14 June 1878.

CHAPTER III

CASAD THE ADVENTURER

The Territory of New Mexico Years--1878 to 1880

I have a great band of Casads about me of all sizes and ages from Nonie down to little Jessie who just begins to toddle about to hunt mischief (a thing by the way that the Casads are great adepts at).⁵⁰

--Thomas Casad

In April and May of 1878, serious plans for Orla's journey to New Mexico were being made. During his travel to Mesilla in June, he corresponded with Allie, describing some of the things he had seen.

I arrived [in El Moro, Colorado] the eve 8[:]30 after having traveled 1062 miles from Summerfield inclusive and must admit that I am somewhat travel worn. . . . Well Allie the trip so far has been magnificent; the better and most tractable country I think lies in Kansas, especially at Emporia The country from Emporia to Great Bend is good. Any where this side for farming purposes is inferior. All lands in Colorado are dependent on irrigation for fertility. But for stock my heavens the valleys are full. The stock looks well both sheep and cattle and very remunerative. The lands of Colorado and a portion of Kansas are hilly. Colorado both Mountainous, Hilly and rocky.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Thomas Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Orla Samuel Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 20 June 1875.

⁵¹ Orla Samuel Casad, El Moro, Colorado, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 14 June 1878.

Orla's written perception of the land he encountered demonstrates his ability to convey his thoughts. In the following passage, he is rather eloquent in his description.

West of West Las Auminias I had a splendid view of Pikes Peak, green horn Mountains, Spanish Peaks and the Raton Mountains. At the base of the Raton I am now resting. And as the train slowly swept in from the silent prairies off Pueblo to the south, I quietly observed the setting sun as it slowly sank behind Pikes Peak spangling its snow capped summit as it were with glittering gold, tingeing [sic] the ethereal blue of the Spanish Peaks with a ray of silver light--and then sullenly retiring behind the long chain of the Green horn Mountains at 8[:]30 your time. 7[:]30 here. It was magnificent--and well worth any man[']s attention.⁵²

Orla continually corresponded with his wife. His observances of the new country he encountered are well worded. The next letter included a reference to his health, which had not been good, as well as his feelings about Kansas.

This climate is curing my dyspepsia I felt unusually well can eat a breakfast equal to a horse--in fact am feeling fine. . . . If there is any chance to do anything in N M I[']m going to do it, at present Kansas pleases me the best, but success may alter my opinions. . . .⁵³

Orla signed the letter above "O. S. Casad, adventurer." A typical letter to Allie began with "Dear Wife and baby" and

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid., 16 June 1878.

then went into the events that were taking place, instructions for money he sent to pay off debts, and answers to her many questions. He always had many comments about Ethel and often sent money to have her picture taken so he could see how his infant daughter was growing.

Orla finally arrived in Mesilla on July 2, 1878. He wrote Allie a lengthy letter describing the rugged end of his journey and detailing many things he intended to do.

I have two opportunities of business, the Independent, or the Mill. With the paper I can work into the law. In the mill It is so much salary and no more, either will pay me better than teaching yet I cannot say that my prospects are more flattering than they were in Lebanon. Society is nothing here in comparison to Ills. Not an ME Church closer than 100 miles, and that is no distance here. Uncle showed me an acre lot which I will in that case build. His new building will join us on the right.

The country is so different here to what it is in Ills that I shall not attempt to describe and simply refer you to that article that we read in the Indiana paper, and could I but retouch the article might make it more true to life having seen the Mesilla Valley a privilege that correspondent had not.⁵⁴

Two maps of the Territory of New Mexico show Mesilla's location in the southern part of the state just northwest of El Paso, Texas. Orla traveled the Butterfield Stage Route and Military Wagon Roads shown on the Historic Trails Map.

⁵⁴ Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 3 July 1878.



Figure 6. Map of New Mexico, 1883.
 Source: History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), 1118.

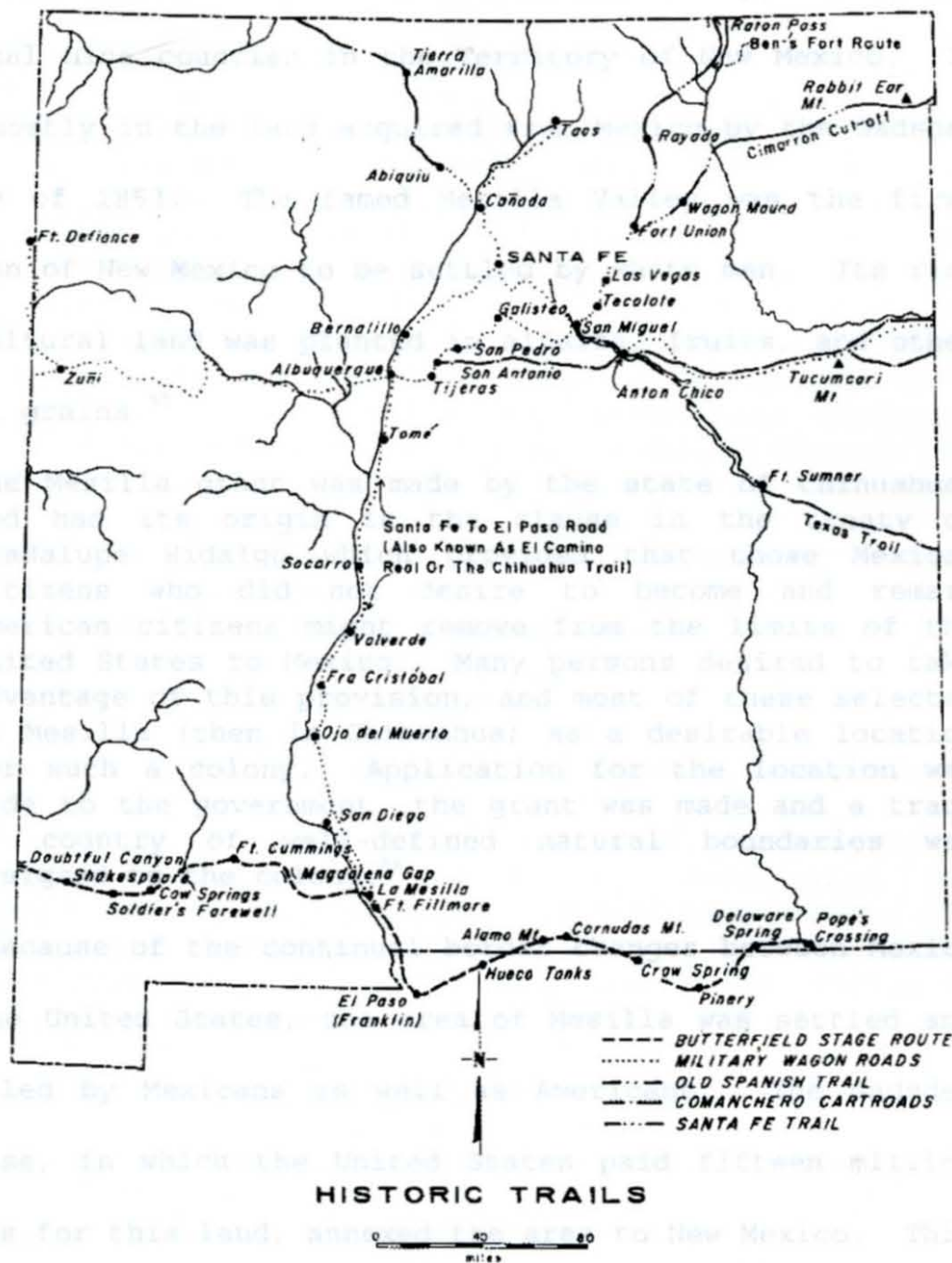


Figure 7. Historic Trails Map of New Mexico.
Source: Historical Atlas of New Mexico, 34.

Orla moved to New Mexico's Dona Ana County, one of the original nine counties in the Territory of New Mexico. It lies mostly in the land acquired from Mexico by the Gadsden treaty of 1853. The famed Mesilla Valley was the first portion of New Mexico to be settled by white men. Its rich agricultural land was planted in alfalfa, fruits, and other cereal grains.⁵⁵

The Mesilla grant was made by the state of Chihuahua, and had its origin in the clause in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which provided that those Mexican citizens who did not desire to become and remain American citizens might remove from the limits of the United States to Mexico. Many persons desired to take advantage of this provision, and most of these selected La Mesilla (then in Chihuahua) as a desirable location for such a colony. Application for the location was made to the government, the grant was made and a tract of country of well-defined natural boundaries was assigned to the colony.⁵⁶

Because of the continual border changes between Mexico and the United States, the area of Mesilla was settled and resettled by Mexicans as well as Americans. The Gadsden Purchase, in which the United States paid fifteen million dollars for this land, annexed the area to New Mexico. This purchase ensured that the land would now permanently be a

⁵⁵ History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People (Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907), 2:561-3.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 1:172.

part of the United States.⁵⁶ Orla's Uncle Thomas was an important part of the settling of this land.

In 1875 Colonel [Albert J.] Fountain removed to Mesilla, New Mexico, where he soon had a large law practice and took an active interest in political affairs and movements in the Territory as a Republican leader. He founded the Independent at Mesilla, beginning its publication June 23, 1877, with John S. Crouch and Thomas Casad as editors in collaboration with Colonel Fountain under the name of the Mesilla Valley Publishing Company. The paper vigorously opposed the organized band of cattle and horse thieves operating in Dona Ana county.⁵⁷

This was the same Mesilla Valley Publishing Company that Orla worked for while he was in Mesilla in conjunction with his uncle and John S. Crouch.

Orla's new home was radically different from Illinois.

Still, despite the growth of population, all the southeastern portion of New Mexico is a rude, wild, and almost lawless region, where, in too many cases, the strong hand is the only arbiter of right and wrong, and where disputes of the most trivial nature are constantly ended with the crack of a pistol or gun.⁵⁸

In addition to being a different world socially, the physical land was strange too. "At Dona Ana and Las Cruces, in order to obtain water for domestic purposes, people were obliged to dig wells in the river-bed, the water oozing

⁵⁷ Ibid., 1:349.

⁵⁸ "The Southern Frontier," New York Times, 28 March 1880, p. 10, col. 1.

thereinto during the night."⁵⁹ New Mexico proved to be a dry, arid land with a large Mexican and Indian population. Orla grew accustomed to his new surroundings and wrote constantly to Allie. "I am becoming acquainted with the country and like it some better than when I last wrote you."⁶⁰ Their separation, however, placed a terrible strain on their relationship financially and emotionally. Although Orla tried to get started with a business and have enough means to support his family, Allie from childhood experience was accustomed to having all she wanted. A continual disagreement over money can be read in the letters exchanged between the couple. Orla's stress is obvious in his next letter:

Allie it nearly kills me to be absent from you and the baby. I am anxious to get into business, build us a home and all that but do not crave a position that will keep me away from them or in any manner make them unhappy. The chances for making money here are better than in the states but requires on the part of man and woman a far [more] difficult exertion than I or you expected. If you were with me and we were doing well I have no doubt but that we would be happy. And when you come it must be without reserve for it will take all I can make in a year to pay debts, get you and the things here and fix us up. My nature will not allow us to be separated long. . . . If you object or think you cannot

⁵⁹ Ibid., 20 June 1880, p. 10, cols. 3-4.

⁶⁰ Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 19 July 1878.

be happy here I will drop everything and return for I can assure you I am zealous as the grave and that once around will be my ruin. I know I am subject to blame when I cannot give you means but you know why and under what circumstances I came and must accept good intentions.⁶¹

Orla was easily upset when Allie corresponded about their hardships or seemed to complain about their state of affairs. The couple's debt caused conflict between them. "Allie I do not want to fetter you we know our Lebanon experience and its result You cannot evade, and it hurts me whenever you refer to Lebanon Matters at least in the manner you speak of them."⁶²

Orla's letters home reveal him as a romantic, somewhat self-centered, and perhaps an inept young husband. The letters reflect his intelligence and efforts to support his family through hard work. A recurring theme in Orla's letters to Allie is his need to have a son to feel secure about his manhood. His views are reflected in the following passage: "I do not know that I ever will have much family, yet I earnestly hope that our union will be made more sacred and binding by the birth of a Son."⁶³ Although this was a

⁶¹ Ibid., 6 August 1878.

⁶² Ibid., 10 August 1878.

⁶³ Ibid., 13 August 1878.

common attitude at the time, it is obvious why Orla felt this pressure. With only two living siblings, neither of whom was married, Orla was the only one to pass on the Casad name through his father's family. Finch, the only other son, chose not to marry; and if Laura had married, her children would not have carried the name of Casad. While Orla's attitude seems chauvinistic and insensitive by today's standards, his views show him clearly a product of his time. Although the couple had five children, they never had a son. In my last I wrote that "if ever I needed a wife it is now and here."

In addition to thinking about their future, Orla also informed Allie of his situation in Mesilla. "I have taken the Independent at 800 a year, and more if the investment will make it on the 800 I am secure and am bound for a year."⁶⁴

Some of Allie's letters to Orla are also helpful in understanding the influence she had upon him.

If you could get the school in L[ebanon] I would be glad & think we could live if we were out of debt. If perhaps you could get a school somewhere in Kansas & then buy a little land & if we had any luck could soon pay for it I could raise chickens & make butter to sell & we could get along I know. . . . if he [Thomas Casad] would let you have five hundred dollars & you buy land

Mesilla, New Mexico, 18 August 1878.

Mesilla, New Mexico, 18 August 1878. In *Journal of the American Historical Association*, 25 August 1878.

⁶⁴ Ibid. 27 August 1878.

in Kansas you could soon pay him & do well at the law or stock raising. that is a good business & not very hard work.⁶⁵

As a result of Allie's need to be with Orla, she was able to affect his moods and sway his opinions. His next letter reflected his disappointment in the way their lives were unfolding.

You say you are sorry that you gave consent to my coming here. You are no more sorry about it than I am, for truly I can wish that I was well out of the Territory. I remained more to please my uncle than myself I felt as though I had been pushed to the wall and was compelled to do something. So here I am. In my last I wrote that it would be best for you to remain at Father's, though if ever I needed a wife it is now and here.⁶⁶

Yet, only a week later Orla wrote to Allie of other feelings. "The paper does a business of over three thousand dollars a year. I like it verry [sic] much."⁶⁷ Seemingly trapped in a situation, Orla probably decided to do the best with what he had at the time.

Another factor that influenced Orla's moods and attitudes were his drinking habits. During Orla's two years in New Mexico Territory, it is apparent in many letters that

⁶⁵ Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, to Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, 18 August 1878.

⁶⁶ Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 20 August 1878.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 28 August 1878.

he was drinking frequently and excessively. In these letters, Orla rambles on about various irrelevant topics. He often experienced illness in the form of fever and stomach problems that were most likely directly related to his habitual drinking. Throughout his life, Orla continued to struggle with alcoholic tendencies.

Orla's real struggle and dilemma were between his desire to be with Allie and to sojourn freely around the country:

I do not care to spend all my days in this particular spot, yet if I can make money am going to stay. . . . I have no desire to stay without you. When the house is ready I shall send for you. I have come here to stay and if there is much in the paper and I think there is I will save my money and in time buy me a house if not here in Texas. If I keep my health Lebanon or Summerfield will know me as a citizen soon again.⁶⁸

Later Orla wrote, "I am so mad about my leaving sometimes that I feel like busting my head." Then, if Orla's life could get more complicated, it did. He found that he too was subject to the violence of the rough country he was living in.

I have had a good deal of trouble the last month, bad press, no paper no ink and have been at a heavy expense. My issue has been robbed twice and recent developments have shown that the party was a knave and scoundrel.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 12 October 1878.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 7 September 1878.

The ink was at one time greased, so that it would spread all over the paper, thereby making it illegible. I have bought me locks and keys, otherwise repaired the building, so that no one can get in. This week have had no trouble. It would not matter much for me to leave the territory, but I cant be driven. I have procured a good self "cocking" revolver and the first fellow that endeavors upon me will get the contents of it. Yes I have omitted to state that a letter came to me finding I was a new man, intimating that my course had better be so-so, laying down a few things for me to observe or I had better vamouse the ranch. It was one of those southern intimidation letters that we used to read in the papers. I answered the letter inviting the gentleman to go below and when I needed his advice would sound the trumpet for him. I will get to be a hard case yet wont I.⁶⁹

In this letter home, Orla wrote extensively. On page six he wrote sarcastically about a relative who was to be married. His humor and wit is evident in this passage and the reader can only laugh at Orla's attitude towards his situation: " . . . so Mattie is getting ready to marry is she you ought to have let me know the day and perhaps I could have sent her a present, I have so much money you know." Orla also writes, "I have drank [sic] whiskey ever since I took the fever. . . ."⁷⁰ Orla kept writing to Allie enclosing bits of information about his daily life.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 13 October 1878.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

School teaching is preferable to what is to be done here especially when this d--d town and country is taken into consideration. . . . I am anxiously awaiting the election here on the 5th of next month, would not be at all surprised if there was a little war here on that day and of course all news papers are targets on such an occasion.⁷¹

Orla's attempts to become associated with the law proved successful. One letter written to Allie is on the letterhead of William L. Rynerson, District Attorney 3rd Judicial District New Mexico.⁷² His next letter speaks of his admittance to practice law.

Your letter of Nov 3 came in today Just one hour before I was examined to be admitted as a practicing attorney in the US District Court of New Mexico. According to the rules it was necessary for me to stand on examination, which I accordingly did in open court--lasting over two hours. Whereupon the U S District Attorney recommended that I be admitted to practice in all the courts of the territory of New Mexico. My papers were made out and duly signed this morning so in the morning will appear in the United States Court take the oath and have my name enrolled. I have two cases in the territorial court which meets next week consisting of \$2400. I guess I will make some money after while.⁷³

Apparently, Orla was involving himself with any money-making opportunity in New Mexico. "I have bought over two hundred acres of land and would not exchange for any Kansas

⁷¹ Ibid., 23 October 1878.

⁷² Orla Samuel Casad, Los Cruces, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 29 October 1878.

⁷³ Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 14 November 1878.

land I ever see, It can be made to produce 25 bushels of good wheat to the acre." And later, "I won one of my cases the other I got the eyes beat off me but bless your soul I made them a speech the like of which I'm told was never made in any Court room."⁷⁴

In January of 1879, Orla wrote about a variety of things that were happening in Mesilla and his life.

There is no news of note only frequent stealings and Indian outbreaks. . . . Some times I think will return for good, then when I feel right well think I will stay. It is rather hard for me to compromise myself to return to either L[ebanon] or S[ummerfield]. though I often wish myself in Lebanon. If I had the means would immediately go to Indianapolis and set up in the Law. But as I have nothing but my Intellect and will have to remain here It would have been much nicer if I had gone to Ind. in the first place, it makes me real heart sick some times when I think of a good effort and attendant small results here, and what it might of been in the law some where else.⁷⁵

In February of 1879, Allie and Ethel made the trek to Mesilla, New Mexico, for the first time. They stayed in the Territory until late August or early September of that year. There are no letters to document what happened in their lives for this eight-month gap, but their daughter Ethel

⁷⁴ Ibid., 5 December 1878.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 27 January 1879.

wrote her own version of the trip to Mesilla. Ethel, two-years old at the time of the journey, did not remember the experience, but the stories her parents told. She remembered that they stayed in Mesilla a short time, leaving after the climate did not agree with her mother.⁷⁶ Orla's letters home resumed soon after Allie departed from his presence.

"I have seen no time during our marriage but what I could have made a living sufficient to have left our domestic affairs unbroken."⁷⁷ After Allie's visit, Orla grew more impatient to rejoin her and his daughter Ethel. After her excursion to New Mexico, Allie was disappointed at what she found. Orla was almost insistent that she join him; Allie was just as determined that he should return home. She found Mesilla, a backward, uncivilized place with no rail service or regular roads. The large and rough Mexican and Indian population that added to the adventure for Orla was strange and frightening for Allie. To compound their problems, the Mesilla Valley Independent ceased

⁷⁶ Ethel Estella Casad [later Larkin], "Autobiography of Ethel Estella Casad," unpublished ms, ca. 1890, p. 4. Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 16 September 1879.

publication in July 1879.⁷⁸ The suspension of the paper took the annual \$800 from their budget. Orla admonished his wife in his letters "your severe sickness was brought on by your refusing, homesickness and desire to be with papa and Mama. That must all be broken up."⁷⁹ The couple was frustrated at their situation and not being able to find a livable solution. Orla's drinking only increased his jealousy of Allie, apparent in several letters. In his next letter, Orla was willing to compromise.

I am now at work in the mill at fair wages and my board. . . . Now to show you that I have no desire for others than legally my own and that I have as high regard for your family as that of my own, that if your Father goes to Kansas and buys land that I will go to[o] and if I have not money to buy land as soon as I can get on my feet I will buy a team and implements and will farm his land and teach school in the winter. I received a letter from Aunt Jennie and she speaks well of Beulah or at least that vicinity. I have no fears but that we will get along If we will only stay together and that assurance I must have from you. . . . My business will all be settled up here shortly and that is a shape that will leave me satisfied and naught can be said of me but that I am an honorable man.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Winifred Gregory, ed. American Newspapers, 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada (New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1937), 436.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 9 October 1879.

Orla then became involved in the Indian situation in the Territory. Since 1868, the Apache Indians had been raiding the white settlers and travelers in an effort to restore their homelands. Orla participated in the military efforts during the Apache Wars to corral a band of Indians known as Victorio's Apaches, so named for their leader.⁸¹ Orla wrote to Allie of his observations. "We returned from the scout last evening traveling 160 miles, remaining in the saddle most of the time, there were 70 men, Col. [William Logan] Rynerson in command. We did not meet the Indians they having fled to the Flovila Mountains."⁸²

What kind of a reaction would Allie have had to Orla's letters that detailed the Indians' atrocities, knowing that he was likely to be involved in any military action? The newspapers reported the Apaches' outbreak and it is likely that Allie was aware of the seriousness of the situation.

⁸¹ Apache War is a term used to describe an almost continuous state of conflict between whites and Apache Indians of the American Southwest between 1868 and 1886. With the passing of Spanish rule in Latin America, relations between the Apache and the white settlers gradually worsened. Animosity was heightened after the region came into American hands. Apache lands stood squarely in the path of American westward movement, increasing the friction as travelers and settlers gained in numbers. Leaders of the various Apache bands almost constantly raided the frontier settlements and travelers on the road to the west. Taken from Allan Carpenter, The Encyclopedia of the Central West (New York: Facts on File, 1990), 22.

⁸² Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 19 October 1879.

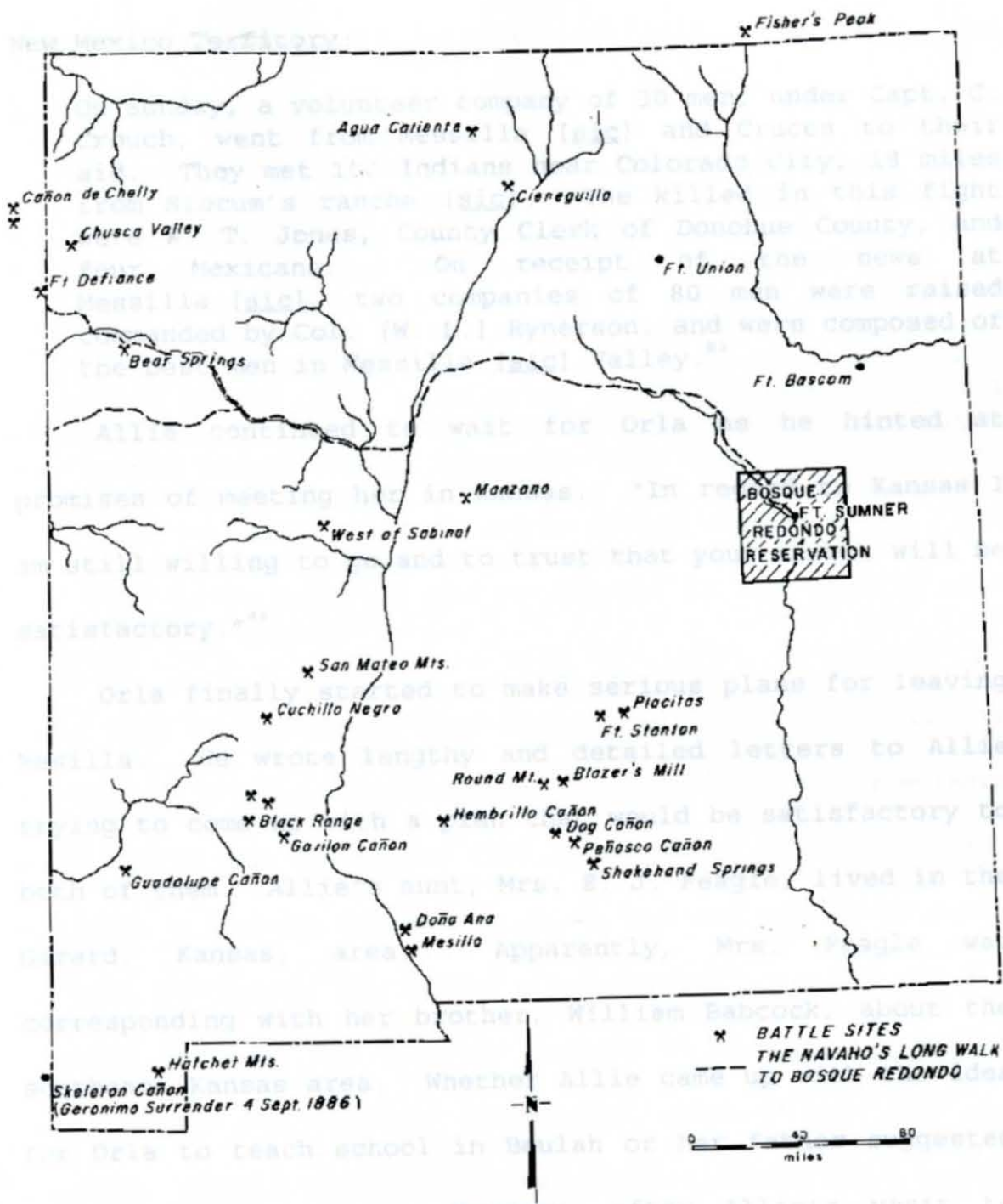


Figure 8. Map of New Mexico with Indian Engagements.
Source: Historical Atlas of New Mexico, 38.

The New York Times reported the Indian engagements in New Mexico Territory:

On Sunday, a volunteer company of 30 men, under Capt. C. Crouch, went from Messilla [sic] and Cruces to their aid. They met 100 Indians near Colorado City, 18 miles from Slocum's ranche [sic]. The killed in this fight were W. T. Jones, County Clerk of Donohue County, and four Mexicans. On receipt of the news at Messilla [sic], two companies of 80 men were raised commanded by Col. [W. L.] Rynerson, and were composed of the best men in Messilla [sic] Valley.⁸³

Allie continued to wait for Orla as he hinted at promises of meeting her in Kansas. "In regard to Kansas I am still willing to go and to trust that your answer will be satisfactory."⁸⁴

Orla finally started to make serious plans for leaving Mesilla. He wrote lengthy and detailed letters to Allie trying to come up with a plan that would be satisfactory to both of them. Allie's aunt, Mrs. E. J. Feagle, lived in the Girard, Kansas, area. Apparently, Mrs. Feagle was corresponding with her brother, William Babcock, about the southeast Kansas area. Whether Allie came up with the idea for Orla to teach school in Beulah or her father suggested the plan is unknown. However, after Allie's visit to

⁸³ "More Indian Murders," New York Times, 17 October 1879, p. 2, col. 2.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 23 November 1879.

Mesilla and her rejection of living there, Orla may have found her suggestion reasonable since he had seen Kansas and was pleased with the land.

I will say that I will go to Beulah, I have made up my mind to go to teaching. . . . If I remember correctly it is only three miles from Girard the county seat[.] I can open up a law office there go up and back on the train, morning and evening. . . . send me the names of the directors and I['ll see if I cannot get the refusal of it [the school] for next year. It will give me a start and if there is anything in the country, I think I will fetch it. I['ll work on here until I can get a little ahead, and if necessary will meet you in Beulah. . . . I would much rather know that I could teach even if it was only 6 months and at normal wages[.] If I can get the school I know it will come out right and then in time a law practice can be secured in the country that will pay largely.⁸⁵

Orla kept experiencing many adventures. His next was the meeting of Governor Lew Wallace. Wallace had been appointed governor of New Mexico in 1878, just after Orla's arrival. Wallace, a General during the Civil War and now an attorney in the southwest, was quite a character.⁸⁶ Orla wrote a "manful defense" for Governor Wallace in the Mesilla Valley Independent and Wallace personally thanked him for his support. Orla's Uncle Thomas was "much pleased for I scaled

⁸⁵ Ibid., 10 December 1879.

⁸⁶ Lew Wallace, Autobiography Vol. 2, (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers), 1906, 912.

a notch that he was not looking for."⁸⁷ Orla began to make a steady effort to be caught up on all of his debts.

The part I played in the Indian trouble here gave them confidence in me[,] and that and paying my debts[,] regardless of my Uncle[,] has given my [sic] credit that I shall not abuse. In time my debts in Summerfield and Lebanon shall be paid and then it will be a strong necessity that will never catch me again.⁸⁸

As the year 1880 opened, Orla didn't fail to correspond with his wife. His letters often show his impatience at not being able to leave for Kansas.

At least we can go to Beulah, and make a start, there is perhaps more than one school that can be reached, You can go soon as you think best or at least as soon as I get money to you. I do not care to return to Summerfield or its confines.⁸⁹

And later in the same letter, "I am not going to stay here trying to pay him as little as possible for the labor he put more than to the first of May."⁹⁰

Thomas Casad owned a large tract of land in the Brazilo Land Grant. As Orla waited for the right time to leave for Kansas, he continued to earn money working on his Uncle's farm and at the mill.

⁸⁷ Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 5 December 1879.

⁸⁸ Ibid., 29 December 1879.

⁸⁹ Ibid., 11 January 1880.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

Came up from the Brazilo . . . am still seeding wheat on the Farm. . . . I have had no letter from Beulah would like to know as to the school, I cannot stay in the valley longer than May.⁹¹

Then, just as Orla had made up his mind to meet Allie in Kansas, gold was discovered in the Mesilla area. Had it not been for Thomas' constant harassment of Orla, he may have never left the Territory. It is not clear what Thomas did to make Orla convinced that he should leave Mesilla. Perhaps it was not a single event, but several small things that kept building. Orla's opinion of his uncle changed dramatically in the two years' time that he lived under his roof. It seemed to Orla that the family was trying to steal all of his belongings. He also thought that Thomas was trying to pay him as little as possible for the labor he put into the farm. Because of Thomas' attitude, Orla may have felt as he did in Summerfield: cramped for space by too many family members in the area. Another reason is that the gold didn't "pan out," as indicated in the following letter.

Yours of the 10th was rec'd last Tuesday it found me on the Brazilo still sowing wheat. . . . Gold has been discovered within 8 miles of the Fort am going out in a couple of days. If all right will take another claim. . . . Now Allie the Mesilla Valley is the best part of New Mexico and if you want to come back just say so.⁹²

⁹¹ Ibid., 18 January 1880.

⁹² Ibid., 25 January 1880.

I have not heard from Beulah and cannot say as to Am still seeding wheat and from indications my Uncle intends to keep me there, which will not be more than two months longer, for the change will hasten my departure. I was not created to be his hand or a boss for his Mexican hands. Since I went on the Farm he has been sued twice on account of his negligence with regard to the acqua [sic] which part I attended to for him and more than succeeded in giving satisfaction to the people. . . . We are now in the midst of a big snow storm the first this winter and in honor of the occasion . . . I went to church. Last night the young folks had a reading at our house, a society of which there is formed consisting of all the young folks of Mesilla. I read the VIII chapter of the book titled The Last of the Mohicans others read the succeeding chapters until seven chapters were read. . . . If appearances are anything I'm old and truly the last two years have left their mark on my personal [i.e. person]. . . . If Girard is anything of a place I have no fears but that I will make a living. The mines have proven a failure, the assays not warranting an expenditure sufficient to their working. As for me I can not as I desire above all things to make a practice of the Law. Of course teaching will be a necessary adjunct, and in those vocations I shall feel more satisfactory to myself; and perhaps my wife.⁹³

Finished up the Brazilo Saturday have planted 125 acres of wheat in less than 2 weeks have lost all my . . . As the time drew nearer for Orla to head for Kansas, he and looks fine. I am perfectly willing to go to Kansas and Allie had many things to discuss. They decided that can see no blame to be attached to either. I am glad to boarding would be less desirable than keeping house and Orla truthfully when I say I ought never to have left the wanted to provide enough income to keep Allie working in the same means, at least enough to have made a start in home. Then, there was always the worry about an income when everything I have or rather used them up, and now that they arrived in Beulah. me is gone, and last night I had to

⁹³ Ibid., 1 February 1880.

I have not heard from Beulah and cannot say as to going there would prefer to go to a new Country, even Beulah. I have given you my reasons for not going to Summerfield.⁹⁴

It is apparent here that Orla needed a new start, preferably one without Allie's family just across the road. There was also the constant reminder of how Thomas had changed in his attitude towards Orla and his affairs. "I am afraid that Thomas Casad will yet live to be poorer man than your Father, and I can truly say that I could wish that I was well out of the Territory."⁹⁵

In his final few letters from Mesilla to Allie, Orla is impatient and easily agitated. He is disgusted with Thomas Casad's family, mindful of past mistakes, and eager to make a fresh start with Allie.

Finished up the Brazilo Saturday have planted 125 acres of wheat in less than 2 weeks have beat all my predecessors my Uncle included, the wheat is coming up and looks fine. I am perfectly willing to go to Kansas and if there is any blame just put it on me, and truly I can see no blame to be attached to either. I am glad to teach and will take the school at Beulah, for I speak truthfully when I say I ought never to have left the schoolroom, at least until I could have stepped out with some means, at least enough to have made a start in business or the law. . . . The family have lost nearly everything I have or rather used them up, and now that shirt that you sent me is gone, and last night I had to

⁹⁴ Ibid., 15 February 1880.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 2 March 1880.

go and buy two shirts in order to dress for church I know they are the dam-dst family out of H-ll I wonder sometimes that Uncle does so much for them, but thank God I will soon be away.⁹⁶ [sic] I have not heard from the directors

Your letter came today. and I am much pleased that you have written am not so well as usual and very impatient to get away. do not know yet when I will start not later than May however. Had a letter from Aunt Jennie this week and from the way she writes they will give me the school in Beulah. It does not pay much but will give us a start so much for that. . . . If that vicinity is good around Beulah I will be satisfied for I can go to Farming and had just as live [sic] do that as anything, so we can have a home and be to each other Husband and wife.⁹⁷

By this time, Allie had been away from Mesilla for about seven months. Orla's impatience can be read in his final two letters written from Mesilla. At this time, the couple still did not have a confirmation that Orla would be able to teach school in Beulah, but he seems willing to leave New Mexico Territory anyway.

Have but little to write of Shall leave here any day between the 15th and 20th of the month. . . . I will reach Beulah by the middle of April, and would like it much if you could be there. . . . I forwarded last week a written application for the school. the encouragement is such as to lead me to think that I will get it. If not perhaps I can do better. Aunt Jennie thinks if I get there in time can get a summer school.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ Ibid., 22 February 1880.

⁹⁷ Ibid., 29 February 1880.

⁹⁸ Ibid., 8 March 1880.

I cannot say of what time I will reach Beulah, the Indians are reported bad, and it will be necessary to be cautious, as well as wakeful and perhaps combatful. But however I just as leve [sic] fight Indians as do anything else now. I have not heard from the directors yet, so I may get the school and I may not. I am going to get away from here at any event. . . . Kiss my baby for me.⁹⁹

With this final letter to Allie, Orla packed his bags, paid his debts, and left on his long, slow journey back to Kansas.

April of 1880. Orla was more than ready to be reunited with his family. Having straightened his affairs in Mesilla, Orla was on the road to Kansas. In a letter to Allie written on his way home, he seems to ramble impatiently much like his final letters from Mesilla.

I have been 30 days on the way. We traveled mostly at night to escape Indians, which we just did as a young man by the name of Gonzales was killed by the Indians 3 days after us. Having escaped the Indians our Train Master sailed out on the Jornada Del-Muerto to almost certain death from want of water. Water giving out after we left a stretch of over 100 miles without Agua you remember the Jornada. . . . I am glad to know that you are in Beulah, am in hopes that you are pleased. I will be down about as soon as the train will take me.

⁹⁹ Ibid., 15 March 1880.

Orla Samuel Casad, El Moro, Colorado, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Springfield, Illinois, 14 June 1879.

Orla Samuel Casad, Las Vegas, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Beulah, Kansas, 25 April 1880.

CHAPTER IV

CASAD IN CRAWFORD COUNTY

A Common Man's Country--1880 to 1928

The better and most tractable country I think lies in Kansas. Any where this side for farming purposes is inferior. At present Kansas pleases me the best.¹

--Orla Samuel Casad

By April of 1880, Orla was more than ready to be reunited with his family. Having straightened his affairs in Mesilla, Orla was on the road to Kansas. In a letter to Allie written on his way home, he seems to ramble impatiently much like his final letters from Mesilla.

I have been 30 days on the way. We traveled mostly at night to escape Indians, which we just did as a young man by the name of Gonzales was killed by the Indians 3 days after us. Having escaped the Indians our Train Master sailed out on the Jornada Del-Muerto to almost certain death from want of water. Water, giving out after we left a stretch of over 100 miles without Aqua you remember the Jornada. . . . I am glad to know that you are in Beulah, am in hopes that you are pleased, I will be down about as soon as the train will take me²

¹ Orla Samuel Casad, El Moro, Colorado, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 14 June 1878.

² Orla Samuel Casad, Las Vegas, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Beulah, Kansas, 23 April 1880.

The Girard Press first recorded the presence of Orla in Crawford County. "Mr. O. S. Casad, Miss Ward, and Miss [Anna] and Mrs. Willoughby, are attending the Normal. They are well satisfied as far as heard from."³ This newspaper account confirms that Orla arrived in Crawford County, intended to teach school, and was attending classes to obtain the proper certification needed for his credentials. This fact is further substantiated by another announcement: "The Beulah public schools will open the first Monday in September. O. S. Casad, teacher. 10 months term."⁴

Beulah, Kansas, was a hamlet consisting of little more than a few houses, a two-story school building, and a Methodist Episcopal Church. The small community was located south of Girard, in "a sea of waving grass, with timber along Cow creek several miles to the east"⁵

As Orla settled down with a job, he became involved in community affairs. The year 1880 for Orla Casad was a chance at a new beginning. His establishment as a failed to put in an appearance, and the voting of it to Mr. Casad is now regarded as a Democratic fraud.

³ "Sheridan Township," Girard Press, 29 July 1880, p. 2, col. 3.

⁴ Ibid., 2 September 1880, p. 3, col. 6.

⁵ Guy Harrison Dyer, "Beulah Had Colorful Beginning," unpublished ms, Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

schoolteacher helped his success and by the next year his family was expanding. April 2, 1881, Allie Lenora Casad, to be known as Nora, was born to Orla and Allie.⁶ Orla was probably disappointed this was not his long awaited son, but welcomed the arrival of his new daughter joyously.

Orla's name usually appeared in the paper whenever a political gathering took place. He publicly debated the question of whether or not the prohibitory law could be practically carried out as a temperance measure. In 1880, Kansas was the first state to adopt prohibition and the eyes of the nation were on her. Orla, Marvin Trott, and John McGuire argued on the affirmative side of this debate losing to the negative view argued by Dr. Anderson, Sheldon Trott, and Gavin Ralston. Orla also helped in the organization of a coal prospecting company.⁷ Orla was also popular with his neighbors and fellow citizens:

Saturday night at the lyceum, a cane was voted to the laziest man. Mr. O. S. Casad carried off the prize. On account of the inclemency of the weather our laziest man failed to put in an appearance, and the voting of it to Mr. Casad is now regarded as a democratic fraud.⁸

Figure 9. Map of Crawford Co., Kansas, 1881.
Source: The Eclectic Complete Geography, Kansas ed. (New York: Cincinnati and Chicago: American Book Co., 1881) 50.

⁶ Certified copy of page 801 of Casad Family Bible.

⁷ "Sheridan Township," Girard Press, 1 December 1881, p. 3, col. 6.

⁸ Ibid., 5 January 1882, p. 2, col. 2.

A map of Crawford County, Kansas, shows the locations of the towns Orla lived in: Beulah, Cherokee, Opolis, and Pittsburg.

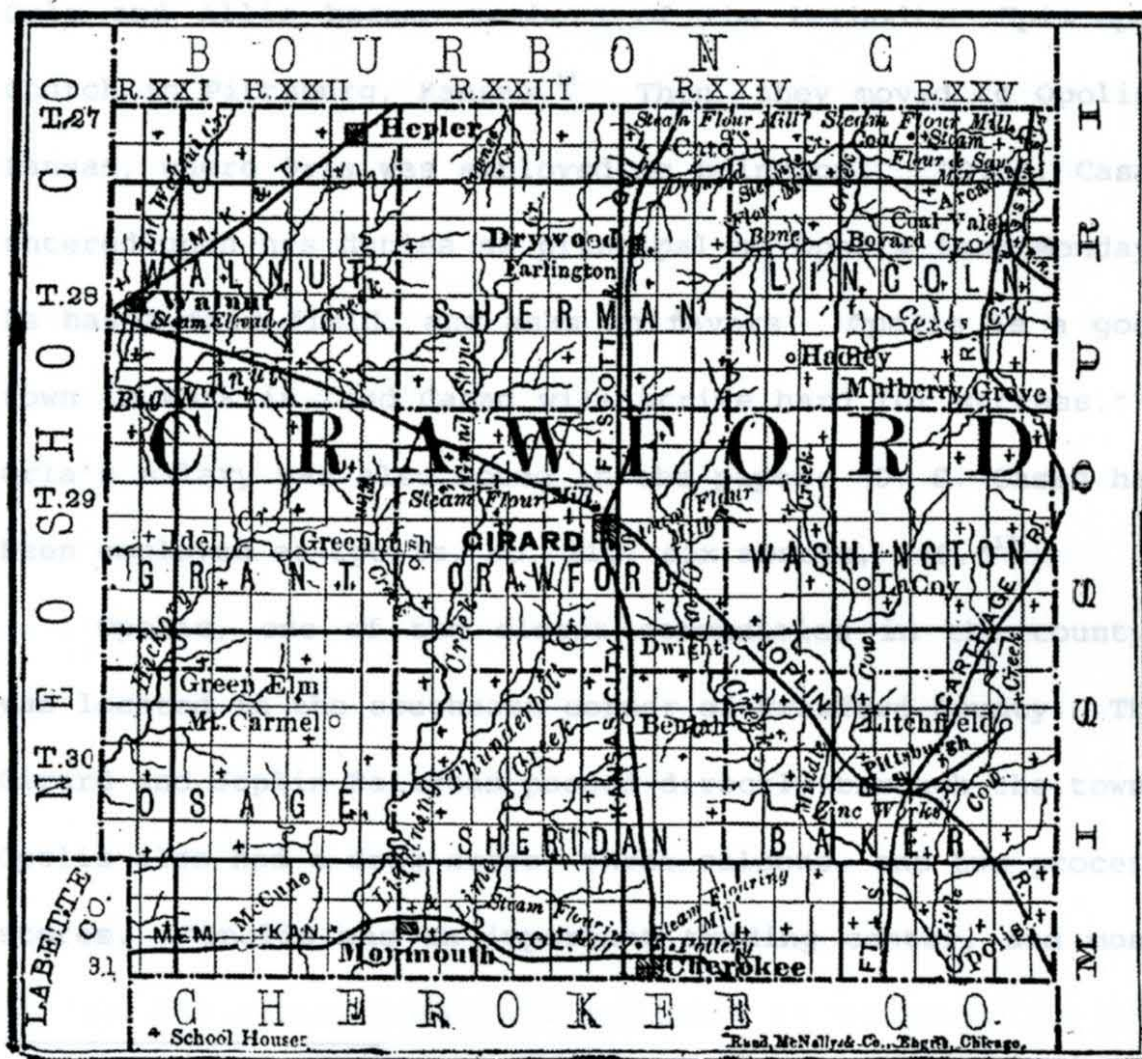


Figure 9. Map of Crawford Co., Kansas, 1883.

Source: The Eclectic Complete Geography, Kansas ed. (New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Co., 1883) 50.

In May of 1882, Orla was an aspirant for "the office of county superintendent of schools."⁹ He had taught in Cherokee now in addition to his experience in Beulah.¹⁰ September of the same year was a busy month for the Casads. Orla and Allie became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pittsburg, Kansas.¹¹ Then, they moved to Opolis, Kansas, where Orla was employed as principal. "O. S. Casad entered upon his duties as principal at Opolis last Monday. He has a fair field, and asks no favors. Opolis is a good town to work in, and Casad will strive hard for success."¹² Orla's salary was also noted in the paper: "O. S. Casad has been employed at Opolis, No. 110, six months, \$40."¹³ Record of Orla Opolis, one of the oldest communities in the county, was located in the southeast corner of Crawford County. The Girard and Joplin Railroad passed directly through the town. Opolis also had a drug store, three saloons, and two grocery stores. "Opolis was an important trading center, and most at law and notary public in addition to principal of the

Beulah and Opolis schools. It listed his education as

⁹ Ibid., 11 May 1882, p. 2, col. 4.

¹⁰ "Plan Military Rites for Judge O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Headlight, 25 May 1928, p. 6, cols. 3-4.

¹¹ "Membership Records for the Methodist Episcopal Church", Pittsburg, Kansas. Currently housed in The First United Methodist Church Archives, 5th and Pine, Pittsburg, Kansas.

¹² "School Notes," Girard Press, 21 September 1882, p. 2, col. 6.

¹³ Ibid., 7 September 1882, p. 2, col. 6.

lines of business needed by a farming community were to be found [there]."¹⁴

Since the Casads moved to Opolis, Orla's name no longer appeared frequently in the Girard Press. However, in December of 1882, the Pittsburg Smelter's Opolis correspondent, "I Reckon" was replaced by "Hunkeydory," whose style is similar to that in Orla's letters to Allie. The subjects this new reporter wrote about were the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I. O. O. F.), the Methodist Episcopal Church, and saloon problems in the town of Opolis.¹⁵ These subjects would clearly have captured Orla's attention. While there is no written record of Orla's employment by the Pittsburg Smelter, it is entirely possible that with his newspaper background that he found reporting as an opportunity to make extra money.

In 1883, Orla's biography appeared in the History of the State of Kansas. It listed his occupations as attorney at law and notary public in addition to principal of the Beulah and Opolis schools. It listed his education as

¹⁴ Guy Harrison Dyer, "Opolis First Called State Line," unpublished ms, Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

¹⁵ Pittsburg Smelter, December 28, 30, 1882; January 20, 1883.

having taken literary courses at McKendree College, graduating in 1875, and the completion of his studies in law in 1877. For his past accomplishments, Orla's admittance to the Supreme Court of Illinois in Mt. Vernon is mentioned along with his experience editing and managing the Mesilla Valley Independent, his membership in the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons society (A. F. & A. M.), and his honorable discharge from the 62nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry.¹⁶ Allie's father, William S. Babcock, also appeared as a resident of Sheridan Township, Crawford County. His occupation is listed as wagon and carriage maker and general blacksmith.¹⁷

Orla continued working in education and moved to East Pittsburg as principal. "O. S. Casad who has charge of the East Pittsburg schools, gave the Headlight a substantial call Wednesday evening and left the wherewith for the best local paper in the city. He gives a vacation of one week to his scholars."¹⁸ Membership rolls for the Methodist Episcopal Church show Orla and Allie Casad as being

¹⁶ History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), 1147.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Local News" Pittsburg Headlight, December 26, 1885, p. 3, col. 3.

reinstated in September of 1885. Their involvement in the place except saloons, gambling houses, and houses of church began to grow and Orla was elected Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School.¹⁹

1886 proved to be a successful year for Orla. His name began to appear in the newspaper frequently and his community involvement increased. First, he was admitted to the bar.²⁰ He was also elected as an officer of the

International Order of Good Templars (I. O. G. T.) which indicates his participation and support of fraternal organizations.²¹ It is interesting that Orla, an alcoholic, chose to become associated with the Templars, a prohibition group.

When the Casads moved to Pittsburg, they found themselves in a much larger community. Pittsburg was described in one account as being "in the heart of a coal-mining district and a railroad center, with extensive railroad shops."²² The same account continues with a description of the society.

¹⁹ Ibid., January 2, 1886, p. 3, col. 3.

²⁰ Ibid., February 13, 1886, p. 3, col. 2.

²¹ "Local News," Pittsburg Headlight, February 13, 1886, p. 3, col. 2.

²² Harold Bell Wright, To My Sons (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1934), 208.

There were fourteen denominational Churches and not a place except saloons, gambling houses, and houses of prostitution where a man might spend a leisure hour. Saloons in a prohibition Kansas city? Yes, twenty-three of them--not blind but wide open, with beer signs at the entrance, swinging doors, bar and everything. Beer wagons drove openly through the streets.²³

The Pittsburg that the Casad family came to know was a "cinder town with road and sidewalks made from cinders taken from the smelters."²⁴

At the local Republican Convention of 1886, Orla was nominated for police judge along with L. C. Herriman.²⁵ Although the vote favored Herriman, Orla had his foot in the door of political matters. The next month found Orla serving as city clerk, as appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council.²⁶ His monthly salary was \$20.10.²⁷

Orla's involvement kept growing and by June of 1886, he opened an office over the Post Office, advertising that he was "now ready to do all kinds of Notary work, and to attend

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ethel Estella Casad [later Larkin], "Autobiography of Ethel Estella Casad," unpublished ms, ca. 1890, p. 4. Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

²⁵ "Republican Convention," Pittsburg Smelter, 20 March 1886, p. 1, col. 5.

²⁶ "Local News," Ibid., 24 April 1886, p. 5, col. 2.

²⁷ "Personals," Ibid., 15 October 1886, p. 1, col. 4.

the case, or advise his client."²⁸ The newspaper reported a case a week later that involved Orla.

L. F. McCracken, of this city, who was arrested the 7th inst, charged with a criminal assault on Mrs. Goodlet, of this city, had his hearing before Squire Cox this morning. The defense was represented by C. H. Coan and O. S. Casad, and the state by John Rankin prosecuting attorney. The evidence on both sides was closed by twelve o'clock, and case continued until two o'clock for argument [sic].²⁹

Orla was involved in many more activities in Pittsburg.

The Pittsburg Smelter ran this article.

O. S. Casad says that on the night of the 7th inst., after Council meeting, while sitting outside of his house, someone in the neighborhood [sic] of the Mo. Pacific R.R. west of Broadway, indulged in the pleasant pastime of shooting a revolver in his direction. One of the bullets passed within twenty feet of him. He thinks the person with the revolver was shooting at a dog, and came pretty near to hitting one. Moral: Shoot high or stay in the house.³⁰

In October, Orla spoke in Opolis with A. J. 'Georgia' "to a large and enthusiastic audience" about politics.³¹ Orla continued to participate in political meetings and organizations. In 1888, the newly formed "Republicans of

²⁸ "Local News," Pittsburg Headlight, 19 June 1886, p. 5, col. 5.

²⁹ Ibid., 26 June 1886, p. 1, col. 2.

³⁰ "Personals," Pittsburg Smelter, 10 July 1886, p. 1, col. 4.

³¹ Ibid., 22 October 1886, p. 1, col. 1.

Pittsburg" elected Orla vice-president.³²

In employment matters, Orla was no longer teaching, but focusing all his efforts at becoming a businessman or lawyer. In 1888, Orla became associated with the real estate office Carlton and Casad, located in the First National Bank Building.³³ The next year "O. S. Casad had been appointed deputy county attorney for this city by county attorney [Ben S.] Gaitskill."³⁴ In April, Orla and Allie bought a house located at 208 West 9th Street, Pittsburg, where they would reside for the rest of their lives.³⁵

On July 20, 1890, Orlena Fay Casad became the newest member of Orla and Allie's family.³⁶ Orla was appointed postmaster in 1890 and served in that position until 1894.³⁷ In 1898 he became the first and only mounted letter carrier

³² "The Republicans of Pittsburg Form a Club," Pittsburg Daily Headlight, 7 February 1888, p. 4, col. 3.

³³ Advertisement. Ibid., 3 April 1888, p. 4, col. 4.

³⁴ "Local News," Ibid., 7 February 1889, p. 1, col. 1.

³⁵ "Real Estate Transactions, Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas," Vol. 5, 1886-1892.

³⁶ Certified copy of page 801 Casad Family Bible.

³⁷ "Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas, Postmaster Appointments," 30 January 1890, Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Vol. 85 (ca. 1893-1930), P. 330, National Archives Microfilm Publication M-841, Roll 40.

in Pittsburg.³⁸ The Pittsburg Kansan recorded Orla's appointment.

On Monday [March 3] the transfer of the post office by Albert E. Nau to his successor O. S. Casad, was completed, and the latter is now a full fledged postmaster. . . . Mr. Casad is a good business man and a popular citizen, and there is no doubt but he will make a good postmaster.³⁹

As a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Orla served on the Board of Trustees in 1891. This was an important time in the history of the church when the building at Fifth and Pine was sold to the United Presbyterians. A new church was built at the corner of Eighth and Locust. Orla worked with D. J. Stower, A. J. Georgia, John Lanning, B. F. Wright, and Samuel Barrett on the direction and money raising aspects of completing the new building which cost about \$11,000. For a year and a half the congregation used the Opera House for Sunday worship services. "The building erected was far in advance on any church building in town."⁴⁰ Orla's

³⁸ "Plan Military Rites for Judge O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Headlight, 25 May 1928, p. 6, cols. 3-4.

³⁹ "Laconics," Pittsburg Kansan, 5 March 1890, p. 5, col. 4.

⁴⁰ John K. Hay, 100 Years in Ministry 1878-1979 (Pittsburg, Kansas: 1979), 18-19.

participation in this aspect of the church history is another example of his efforts to improve Pittsburg.



Figure 10. Eighth Street Methodist Church

Source: John K. Hay, 100 Years in Ministry 1878-1979.
(Pittsburg, Kansas: 1979), 19.

The History and Roster of General Russell Post No. 65 of the Grand Army of the Republic⁴¹ was issued in 1893. It listed Orla as a past Post Commander in 1890⁴² and included

⁴¹ The Grand Army of the Republic, or G. A. R., was a group founded in Illinois in 1866. It became the largest organization of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Membership in the G. A. R. naturally dwindled until there were 65,000 members in 1923 and only one remaining veteran in 1956 when the society was officially disbanded. Taken from The Concise Genealogical Dictionary, compiled by Maurine and Glen Harris (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1989) 109.

⁴² History and Roster of General Russell Post No. 65 of the Grand Army of the Republic (Topeka, Kansas: The Western Veteran, 1893), 7.

a military biography and drawing of him. The introduction of Orla's military experiences is colorful, boastful, and an excellent example of his unrealistic portrayal of the past. "Capt. Orla S. Casad claims to be the youngest soldier of the war, west of the Mississippi, in point of enlistment and length of service."⁴³ The biography correctly reports Orla's service with the Territorial Militia of New Mexico and his participation as a scout during the Victorio Apache Indian War of New Mexico and Arizona over the winter of 1879-80. Orla first joined the Grand Army of the Republic in 1883 at Cherokee, Kansas. By 1893, Orla was still active in the military and was Captain of Company E, First Regiment of the Kansas National Guard in Pittsburg.⁴⁴

When Orla was postmaster of Pittsburg in 1893, he published an article which informed the citizens about the conditions of free delivery. Pittsburg needed to have a population of 10,000 inhabitants within the corporate limits of the city or a gross revenue of \$10,000 by the post office for the previous fiscal year in order to qualify for free service. The population of Pittsburg was only 6,697 in

⁴³ Ibid., 24.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

1890.⁴⁵ Casad's article informed citizens that they must support the post office during the next three months to raise the \$2,735.50 needed to reach \$10,000 a year to secure free delivery of their mail.⁴⁶

For the Christmas holidays that year, the Casads traveled to Wichita, Kansas, where they celebrated and ate turkey with Orla's mother, Betsy Casad.⁴⁷

January 1894 was the beginning of another busy and active year for Orla. His name frequently appeared in the newspaper: "O. S. Casad has opened a law office in the opera house block," "Capt. O. S. Casad wants eight or ten recruits for his militia company," and "O. S. Casad wants to purchase all the outstanding shares of the Pittsburg Cornet band."⁴⁸

Still involved in politics, Orla attended the Republican State Convention in Topeka, Kansas, with several

⁴⁵ 1910 U.S. Census, Population Bulletins, Series 1, Minor Civil Divisions, Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census. It was not until 1900 that Pittsburg's population reached 10,112.

⁴⁶ "Free Delivery Service," Pittsburg Messenger, 7 April 1893, p. 5, col. 2.

⁴⁷ "Holiday Personals," *Ibid.*, 29 December 1893, p. 4, col. 2.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 6 April 1894, 11 May 1894, 1 June 1894, p. 4, col. 1.

other local men.⁴⁹ Once again, Orla wrote to Allie giving a candid portrait of his inner self.

I find a large assembly of Republicans here both manly, sober and patriotic. There are no open saloons here and I see no open indications of drunkenness. I have watched closely to see on the part of our Delegates and the people evidences of drinking and find from personal contact that our best men as well as Republicans throughout the state are free from that habit. So I have made up my mind to let it alone. I believe the way the liquor business is conducted in Pittsburg is wrong. Men are led to do and drink because [of] its easy access. And then the moral conscience is lowered by contact. Our Crowd I am glad to say are not drinking[;] neither are the delegates here in any manner doing so. It makes me feel better and prouder to be in a clean crowd and one that can show its manhood in a clear head and a manly heart.⁵⁰

Orla also wrote about meeting and talking with Major Edmund N. Morrill, who was nominated and elected the thirteenth governor of Kansas.

Orla and his family continued to appear in the newspaper that year: "O. S. Casad had tendered his resignation as Captain of Company E, First Regiment, Kansas National Guards,"⁵¹ "O. S. Casad will be a candidate for

⁴⁹ Ibid., 8 June 1894, p. 4, col. 1.

⁵⁰ Orla Samuel Casad, Topeka, Kansas, 5 June 1894, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Pittsburg, Kansas.

⁵¹ Pittsburg Messenger, 12 October 1894, p. 4, col. 1.

justice of the peace next spring,"⁵² and "Mrs. O. S. Casad and children spent Christmas with Mrs. Casad's parents, at Beulah."⁵³

Augustus J. Georgia, who had come to Pittsburg soon after its founding, was involved in several of the same activities as Orla. Georgia, a Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, member of the Republican Party, former Postmaster of Pittsburg, and a member of the G. A. R., spoke publicly on several occasions with Orla about political issues. All of these connections indicate that Orla and Augustus saw each other frequently and were probably close friends and comrades. A. J. Georgia was one of the "home authors" of the Crawford County History of 1905.⁵⁴ It is curious that although the two men were very well acquainted and Orla was a long-time community member, he was omitted from the history. However, during the period the book was published, Orla was struggling with alcoholism.

Figure 11. Police Judge Orla Samuel Casad, ca. 1911.

⁵² Ibid., 30 November 1894, p. 4, col. 1. Leonard H. Axe Library,

⁵³ Ibid., 28 December 1894, p. 4, col. 1. Pittsburg, Kansas.

⁵⁴ A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of Crawford County, Kansas, by Home Authors (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1905).



Figure 11. Police Judge Orla Samuel Casad, ca. 1911.

Source: Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library,
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Orla's connections in the political world continued to grow. A letter from William Jennings Bryan to Morris Cliggett refers to Orla.

Your favor, together with the letter of Mr. Casad just received. I regret that I cannot promise to be with your people. You can explain to Mr. Casad that my time is so fully occupied that I have been compelled to neglect certain reading which it is almost necessary for me to do. . . . I hope sometime that I may be able to meet your Pittsburg people but I do not feel that I can make any promise now.⁵⁵

Much to the disappointment of his supporters, Bryan was unable to stop in Pittsburg in 1896.⁵⁶

At the time of Bryan's death, the newspaper ran an article recalling Bryan's visits to the area. Orla and other citizens remembered William Jennings Bryan's speech from an outdoor platform erected on the north side of the Hotel Stilwell.⁵⁷

The reception accorded Bryan in Pittsburg and southeastern Kansas is the most significant political event that has happened in this state for years and foreshadows the triumph of Americanism and the death knell of imperialism in November. A conservative estimate of the crowd here puts it at 25,000, of whom 15,000 packed themselves densely around the platform.

⁵⁵ William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Nebraska, to Morris Cliggett, Pittsburg, Kansas, 12 May 1897.

⁵⁶ Morris Cliggett, Pittsburg, Kansas, to C. C. Copeland, Libertyville, Illinois, 16 October 1896.

⁵⁷ "Recall Bryan's Visits Here," Pittsburg Daily Headlight, 27 July 1925, p. 2, col. 1.

From first to last they listened to the great commoner with strained interest. . . . The speech was logical as well as impassioned, and no fair minded republican could possibly evade the conclusion that his party had strayed from the doctrines on which it was founded--not only strayed but had actually reversed its position on every one of them.⁵⁸

Bryan's last visit was in 1914, when he spoke in the City Hall yard in support of Patrick J. McGinley of Frontenac for Third District Congressman.⁵⁹

There was nothing of a personal motive in Mr. Bryan's talk nor in the remarks of Mr. P. J. McGinley. Both were clean appeals to the honest intelligence of the voters to stand by President Wilson and send only such men to Congress and the United States Senate as are in sympathy and accord with the President's policy.⁶⁰

There is no doubt that although Orla was as disappointed as the rest of Bryan's supporters in 1896; he attended the speeches and rallies wholeheartedly during future visits.

1896 was a busy year for Orla. He was elected as Justice of the Peace and held this position until 1925 when the city court was established.⁶¹ Earlier that year, Orla received a letter from E. S. Casad who was in Mexico. The

Allie's brother George C. Hancock also completed an affidavit for Orla's benefit. Orla received \$50.00 per

⁵⁸ "Bryan's Visit," Pittsburg Kansan, 20 September 1900, p. 4, col. 4.

⁵⁹ "Recall Bryan's Visits Here," Pittsburg Daily Headlight, 27 July 1925, p. 2, col. 1.

⁶⁰ "Bryan Day," Pittsburg Kansan, 24 October 1914, p. 1, col. 4.

⁶¹ "Plan Military Rites for Judge O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Headlight, 25 May 1928, p. 6, cols. 3-4.

writer strikes issues that were important to Orla and indicates Orla's longing for adventure and freedom to travel.

You say have not much worry if your mind is clear mutch [sic] better than money. . . . You spoke of Cripple creek you are Crip[p]le enough without going to Cripple creek and your family is best of[f] with you near them. Got a letter from E. J. Jones he states that he was compiling a history of the Casad family referde [sic] him to you as that is the only way you can pass your name to posterity.⁶²

Orla applied for a pension from the U. S. Government in 1898 for his service in the Civil War. Orla had to secure testimony from several people to prove his eligibility. His sister Laura, who now lived in Wichita, Kansas, filled out an affidavit for him. Her testimony follows:

I am the sister of Orla S. Casad and depose and say that he was not married previous to his marriage to Allie M. Babcock and that I was personally acquainted with her and do know that she was not previously married to anyone before she married Orla S. Casad my brother. I do further depose and say that they have lived together as man and wife since their marriage to each other and that they were never divorced from each other.⁶³

Allie's brother George C. Babcock also completed an affidavit for Orla's benefit. Orla received \$50.00 per

⁶² E. S. Casad, Mexico, to Orla Samuel Casad, Pittsburg, Kansas, 1 March 1896.

⁶³ "Military Pension Record for Orla S. Casad," File No. SC1.615.361, Records of the Veterans' Administration (Record Group 15), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.

month when he secured his pension. Later, in 1920, he was able to apply for an increase and received \$72.00 per month.⁶⁴

In 1900, Pittsburg greeted Theodore Roosevelt as he came through town and Orla was at the head of Pittsburg's celebration.

After a week's deluge of intermittant rains, storms, ets., that has constantly enveloped this section in mist and fog and hid earth from the sun with heavy clouds, Roosevelt day has been greeted by the friendly rays of the sun which lent a feeling of cheer to everyone. Delegations from all sections of the country came in to get a glimpse of the hero of San Juan Hill and the future vice-president of the United States during his short stay in the city this afternoon. . . . The Pittsburg flambeau club commanded by Captain Casad, with the Pittsburg Citizens band, met all trains and formed a reception committee. . . . The parade was formed at Third and Broadway and under the command of O. S. Casad⁶⁵

point, his career in the legal system was solidly accepted

It was also recorded that although Roosevelt made a short speech, "his visit and talk in Pittsburg made hundreds of votes for Bryan."⁶⁶

played a part in Orla's life since his early manhood. The influence of alcohol was apparent in his letters from New Mexico Territory and when he attended the Kansas Republican Convention. Social attitudes towards

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ "Roosevelt Day," Pittsburg Daily Headlight, 29 September 1900, p. 1, col. 1.

⁶⁶ "Teddy," Pittsburg Kansan, 4 October 1900, p. 4, cols. 3-4.

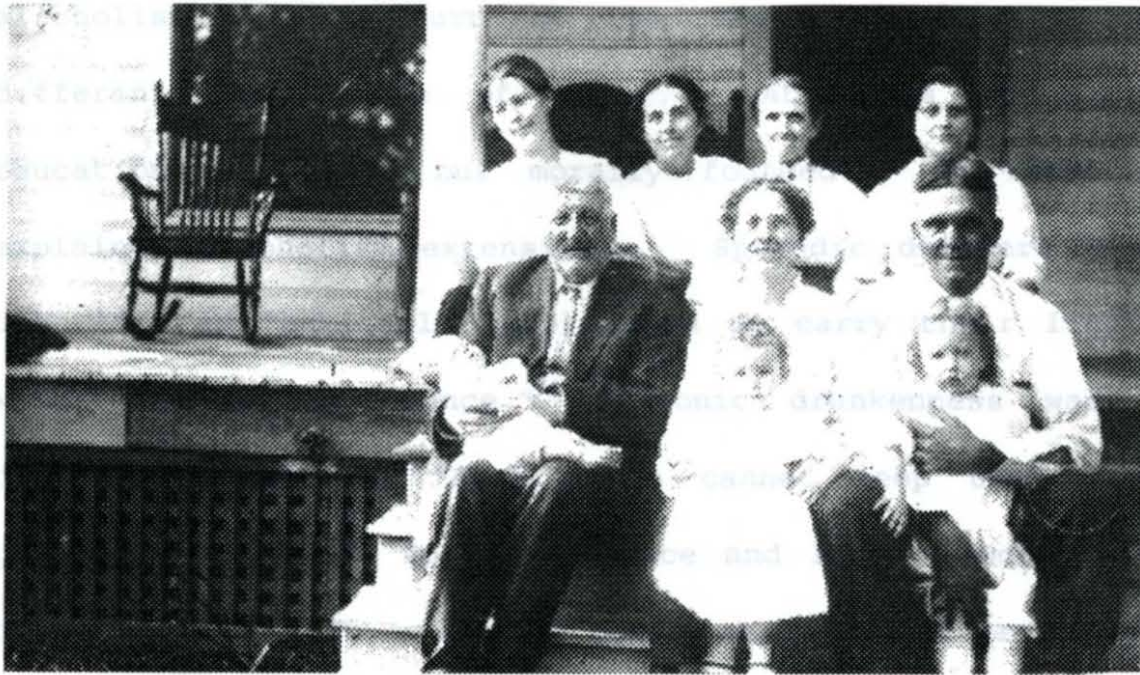


Figure 12. Casad Family Photo.

Source: Special Collections, Pittsburg State University,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Orla was appointed police judge in 1911.⁶⁷ From this point, his career in the legal system was solidly accepted and with his experience as Justice of the Peace, he no longer had to worry about his place in Pittsburg.

Alcoholism had played a part in Orla's life since his early manhood. The influence of alcohol was apparent in his letters from New Mexico Territory and when he attended the Kansas Republican Convention. Social attitudes towards

⁶⁷ Illustriana: Kansas (Hebron, Nebraska: Illustriana, Inc., 1933), 213.

alcoholism at the turn of the century were somewhat different from those of today. Attitudes were not educationally based, but morally founded. One article explained alcoholism extensively. Sporadic drinkers were described as "habituals [who] learn to carry their liquor with ease of experience."⁶⁸ Chronic drunkenness was a different problem. "Prohibition cannot keep them from getting liquor, nor social disgrace and loss of work from drinking it."⁶⁹ It was also noted that "fifty years ago chronic drunkenness was regarded as an obstinate vice, to be treated like theft or any other form of moral depravity."⁷⁰

In 1906, Alcoholism was correctly identified as a drug habit.

The true inebriate drinks for quantity, not for quality: his sole aim is the drug effect of the alcohol. Alcoholism is as essentially a drug habit as morphinism, though it has a far wider range of symptoms and results.⁷¹

During this time period, the need for a place for recovering alcoholics was realized. "There is no institution for these

⁶⁸ Julian Willard Helburn, "Can We Keep Sober?" American Magazine 62 (September 1906): 540.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 541.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid., 542.

slaves of alcohol, who after a time become partially irresponsible, and a menace to their families and to the community."⁷² One doctor suggests the establishment of separate institutions for alcoholics: "farm colonies for inebriates, where under appropriate treatment a certain proportion may 'break the habit,' and again become useful members of the community."⁷³

In May of 1907, Orla wrote to Allie from Kansas City. He told her that the doctors had informed him that he was sick and must stay in Kansas City.⁷⁴ On the third of June, Orla was writing to Allie from The Keeley Institute for the Treatment of Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Addictions. He stayed in Kansas City for almost a month before returning home as a cured man. His letters downplay his experience.

The Keeley Cure was a popular and somewhat successful treatment for alcoholics at the turn of the century. Vance Randolph went through this treatment and wrote about his experience.

⁷² "Treatment of Habitual Drunkards," Charities and the Commons 18 (July 13, 1907): 414.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Orla Samuel Casad, Kansas City, Missouri, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Pittsburg, Kansas, 29 May 1907.

Dr. Darby Hicks told Randolph "A real booze-fighter . . . is a neurotic, with a congenital crook in his elbow. He doesn't drink for pleasure at all, but in order to get out of the world; to escape from a reality which does not please him. He uses whiskey for its sedative and hypnotic action, just as a dope-fiend uses morphine. And you and I are genuine, dyed-in-the-wool booze-fighters."⁷⁵

Patients at the Keeley Institute were required to follow the rules strictly, or forfeit their entire \$350 fee. Once admitted, the four-week treatment began with "one of the doctors handing me a large glass of whiskey followed by two black pills, which I was required to swallow immediately."⁷⁶

The next step in treatment was drinking a mixture of whiskey and hot malted milk which "certainly has a vile taste."⁷⁷ The Keeley Cure depended on a "secret remedy" which was administered hypodermically four times a day. In addition to the injections, a bitter yellow tonic was taken every two hours. Randolph smuggled enough of this substance out of the building to have it tested. Pharmacists agreed that the mixture was gentian and potassium iodide.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Felix V. Rhinehart, Confessions of a Booze-Fighter: I Took the Keeley Cure (Girard, Kansas: Haldeman-Julius Publications, 1943), 5.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 7.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 8.

A typical Keeley Institute day was set up on the following schedule.

Table II. Daily Schedule of the Keeley Institute.

7:00 am	Wake up and dose of tonic
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:00 am	Injections
9:00 am	Dose of tonic
11:00 am	Dose of tonic
12:00 am	Injections
12:30 am	Lunch
1:00 pm	Dose of tonic
3:00 pm	Dose of tonic
5:00 pm	Injections and dose of tonic
5:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Dose of tonic
7:30 pm	Injections
9:00 pm	Dose of tonic
10:30 pm	Bedtime

Source: Felix V. Rhinehart, Confessions of a Booze-Fighter: I Took the Keeley Cure (Girard, Kansas: Haldeman Julius Publications, 1943), 9.

The schedule was designed to keep the patients occupied most of the day. The Keeley Cure was invented by

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, who finished medical school in 1866 after his discharge from the Union army.

Most respectable people, in the early [18]70s, looked upon drunkenness as a vice or crime, to be punished by fines and imprisonment. Keeley astonished everybody by announcing his discovery that drunkenness is not a vice but a disease, . . .⁷⁹

Vance Randolph did not find living as a cured man easy. Many reformed drunkards say that they never think about whiskey, but that is not true in my case. The Keeley treatment has made it possible for me to live without alcohol, but it has not miraculously taken away my appetite for liquor. . . . Some Keeley graduates continue to frequent bars and night-clubs, drinking fruit-juices or seltzer, but I find it best to keep away from such places. I can go into a taproom without taking a drink, of course. But what's the use? It is always easier to avoid temptation than to resist it.⁸⁰

Perhaps Orla would have agreed with Randolph, or maybe it made his life around his peers easier.

Orla returned home from Kansas City and being 61 years old, he probably looked forward to retirement. He had worked his way up in the world from schoolteacher to Justice of the Peace. For the remainder of his life, Orla appeared less frequently in the public. In 1909, Orla made an appeal

⁷⁹ Ibid., 11.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 23.

to Mayor Cliggitt for the position of City Collector.⁸¹ The Mayor promptly replied that the position had already been promised and would only be temporary.⁸² Although Orla was an attorney, his business may have been slow with sixteen law firms in the city at that time.⁸³

As late as 1919, Orla was listed in the city directory under "Justices' Courts" with "sessions daily except Sunday."⁸⁴ The city of Pittsburg kept growing and reached its peak population about this time. "This volume contains 10,832 names, which, multiplied by 2 1/2 to represent married women and children not included in the above number, indicate a population of 27,080."⁸⁵ The Casads celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1926 by "entertaining a large host of friends at their home." Orla was not involved in any professional duties after 1925.⁸⁶

⁸¹ Orla S. Casad, Pittsburg, Kansas, to Morris Cliggitt, Pittsburg, Kansas, 11 May 1909.

⁸² Morris Cliggitt, Pittsburg, Kansas, to Orla S. Casad, Pittsburg, Kansas, 12 May 1909.

⁸³ R. L. Polk and Co.'s Pittsburg City Directory 1908-1909 (Sioux City, Iowa, St. Paul, and Detroit: R. L. Polk and Co., 1908).

⁸⁴ Ibid., 1919. 19, 23.

⁸⁵ Ibid., "Introduction."

⁸⁶ "End Comes to O. S. Casad, 82, Early Pioneer," Pittsburg Sun, 25 May 1928, p. 1, col. 6.



Figure 13. Orla Samuel Casad, ca. 1920.
Source: Special Collections, Pittsburg State University,
Pittsburg, Kansas. May 1921, located in Greene County
Mortuary Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas

Orla Samuel Casad died on May 24, 1928, at the age of eighty-two, from chronic valvular heart disease and senility.⁸⁷ His funeral was conducted in high military fashion. A gun carriage brought from Fort Scott, Kansas, was drawn from the church to the cemetery by two teams of horses.⁸⁸ His obituary states that "Judge Casad was intensely patriotic" and lists his numerous activities. Services at the Methodist Church were performed by Reverend W. R. McCormack. Members of The American Legion and the G. A. R. acted as honorary pallbearers and the Masonic lodge also took part in the service.⁸⁹ The funeral was conducted by Brenner Mortuary at a cost of \$310.43.⁹⁰

Orla was buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Pittsburg, Kansas, on May 27, 1928. It is appropriate that Orla's final resting place is just off Mt. Olive's Beulah Avenue. It was in Beulah that Orla first found a home and job in the Casad's oldest daughter Ethel Larkin grandson Alfred

⁸⁷ Death Certificate for Orla Samuel Casad, 24 May 1928, State of Kansas Bureau of Vital Statistics.

⁸⁸ "Military Funeral For O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Sun, 26 May 1928, p. 1, col. 5.

⁸⁹ "Plan Military Rites for Judge O. S. Casad," Pittsburg Headlight, 25 May 1928, p. 6, cols. 3-4. "Judge Casad", p. 4, col. 1. "Casad Funeral Tomorrow", 26 May 1928, p. 1, col. 6.

⁹⁰ Record of Funeral for Orla Samuel Casad, 24 May 1928, located in Brenner Mortuary Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Kansas. Orla's grave is located in Row 9 from the west, north to south, Block 10.⁹¹

After his death, Orla's oldest daughter Ethel Casad Larkin received a letter from Charles Curtis, U. S. Senator in Washington, D. C., and a vice-presidential nominee. In his letter of sympathy to Ethel and her mother, Curtis assured them that the political party had "lost a true and faithful supporter."⁹²

As a widow of a Union soldier, Allie was eligible to continue receiving the pension Orla was drawing. Allie received a pension of \$42.50 per month until her death on November 6, 1933.⁹³

Remembered for her work with charities and her involvement in the Methodist Church and the G. A. R. Circle,⁹⁴ Allie was laid to rest next to Orla and their daughter Marguerite, who had died in infancy. Eventually, the Casad's oldest daughter Ethel Larkin, grandson Alfred

⁹¹ William C. Cuthbertson, Tombstone Transcriptions of All Known Cemeteries in Crawford County, Kansas (Pittsburg, Kansas: 1975).

⁹² Charles Curtis, Washington, D. C. to Ethel Casad Larkin, Pittsburg, Kansas, 22 June 1928.

⁹³ "Military Pension Record for Orla S. Casad," File No. SC1.615.361, Records of the Veterans' Administration (Record Group 15), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.

⁹⁴ "Mrs. Mary Casad is Dead," Pittsburg Headlight, 6 November 1933, p. 1, col. 3.

Casad Hazen, and Allie's parents William and Martha Babcock were all buried in the Mt. Olive Cemetery.⁹⁵

In 1933, Orla's biography appeared in the Illustriana: Kansas. The biography gives an interesting and fair illustration of his life and encompasses all of the activities in which he was involved.⁹⁶ It is fitting that although Orla had been dead five years, his life as a common man was still being recorded for others to read.

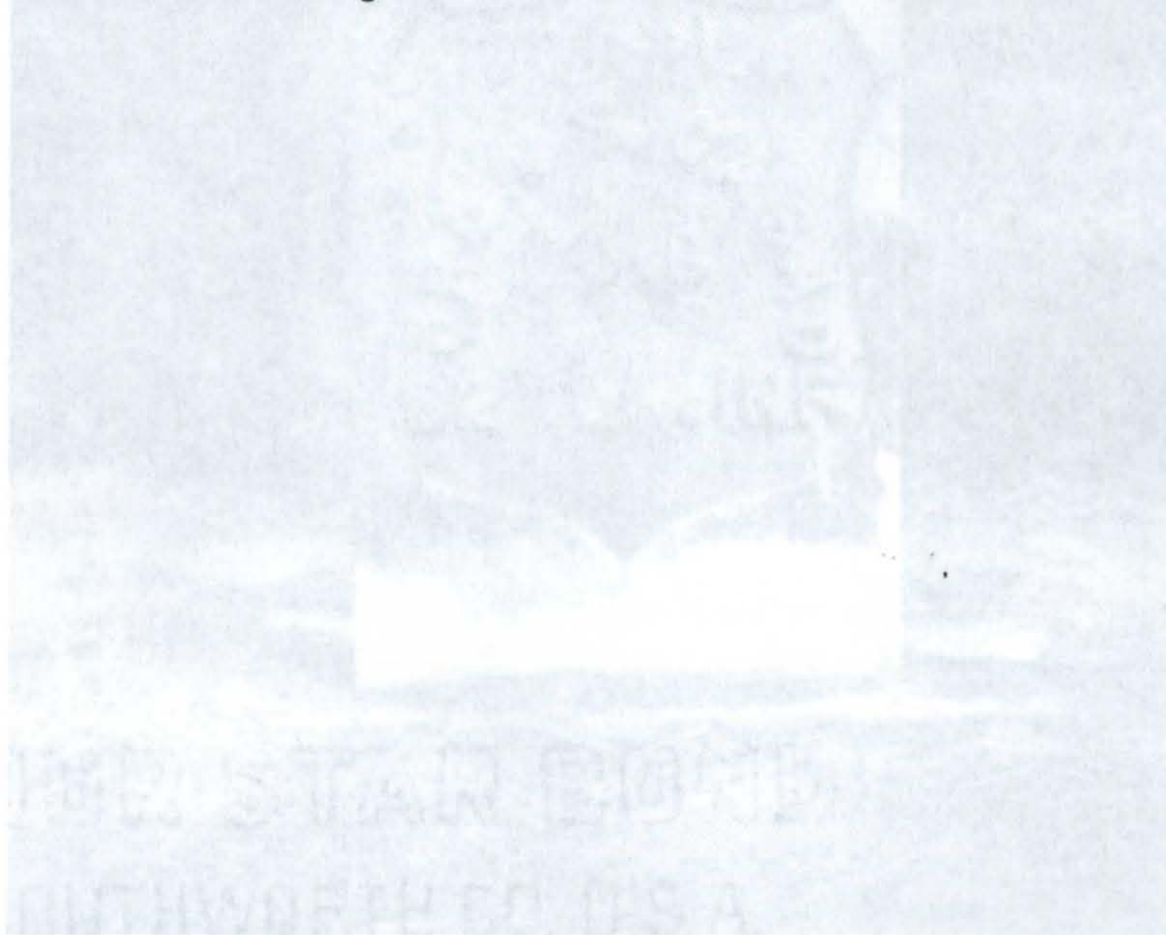


Figure 24. Photo of Orla S. Casad's Gravestone.
Source: Photograph taken in Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pittsburg.

⁹⁵ William C. Cuthbertson, Tombstone Transcriptions of All Known Cemeteries in Crawford County, Kansas (Pittsburg, Kansas: 1975).

⁹⁶ Illustriana: Kansas (Hebron, Nebraska: Illustriana, Inc., 1933), 213.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION



Figure 14. Photo of Orla S. Casad's Gravestone.
Source: Photograph taken in Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pittsburg,
Kansas by author.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

While Orla Samuel Casad did not become a famous figure in Pittsburg's history, his contributions are important. Even though Orla was active in the growth of Pittsburg, he never became a financial investor who made the difference in whether new industries were brought to the town. But, he was involved in minor, yet essential contributions such as the building of a new Methodist Episcopal Church.

A biographical sketch of Orla was published in the History of the State of Kansas.⁹⁷ But it is interesting to note that he does not appear in the history of Crawford County, his home of almost half a century. This omission may have occurred because he was not a minister, entrepreneur, or other well known public figure. His life was typical of the majority of Americans during the mid-Nineteenth Century, born neither wealthy nor poor.

By the time of his death in 1928, Casad had filled many roles in the community: school teacher, newspaper editor,

⁹⁷ History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), 1147.

attorney, postmaster, national guardsman, notary public, justice of the peace, and police judge. He participated in the fraternal organizations of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Oddfellows. Orla was also involved in the activities of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Republican Party.

A veteran of the Civil War, Orla Casad traveled widely after his discharge from the army. Although he was married and had a daughter, he was not ready to put his roots down in one place. Orla's journeys began from his home in Summerfield, Illinois, to Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, and then to Kansas where he resided in Beulah, Cherokee, Opolis, and Pittsburg.

As Orla began to grow in Pittsburg and raise a family, he saw the town change from a smelting center to a city "famed for its market and industrial activity."⁹⁸ Pittsburg became a permanent home for the Casads. If we learn nothing else from studying a "common" man's life, let us remember Orla Samuel Casad as an individual who was always looking

⁹⁸ "Introduction," Polk's Pittsburg (Kansas) City Directory 1928 (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., 1928), 12.

towards the future, trying to improve his own social and financial status in the community as well as improving his chosen home of Pittsburg. Orla's tomorrow has become our today.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

GENEALOGY

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Orla Samuel Casad

Born: 31 January 1884 in: Clinton County, Illinois

Married: 10 September, 1916 in: Sumnerfield, St. Clair Co., IL

Died: 24 May 1953 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS

Father: John Miller "Milt" Casad

Mother: Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Moore

Wife: Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock

Born: 22 July 1893 in: Taylorville, New York

Died: 6 November 1933 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS

Father: William S. Babcock

Mother: Martha Ann Wood

CHILDREN

1 Name: Ethel Estelle Casad

Born: 5 December 1917 in: Sumnerfield, St. Clair Co., IL

Died: 30 October 1971 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS

Spouse: James F. Lark

2 Name: Allie (Lena) Casad

Born: 2 April 1891 in: Crawford Co., KS

Died: 1938

Spouse: Alfred G. Hazen

3 Name: Oriana Fay Casad

Born: 20 July 1890 in: Crawford Co., KS

Spouse: Fred A. Palmer

4 Name: Margaretta Finch Casad

Born: 14 November 1895 in: Crawford Co., KS

Died: 12 July 1996 in: Crawford Co., KS

5 Name: Josephine Mildred Casad

Born: 31 August 1897 in: Crawford Co., KS

Spouse: Charles E. Smith

APPENDIX

Husband: William S. Babcock

Born: 1826

Died: 1908

GENEALOGY

in: Crawford County, Kansas

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Orla Samuel Casad

Born: 31 January 1846 in: Clinton County, Illinois
 Married: 20 September 1876 in: Summerfield, St. Clair Co., IL

Died: 24 May 1928 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS
 Father: John Milton "Milt" Casad
 Mother: Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann Moore

Wife: Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock

Born: 22 July 1853 in: Taylorville, New York Co., IL
 Died: 6 November 1933 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS
 Father: William S. Babcock
 Mother: Martha Ann Wood

CHILDREN

1	Name: Ethel Estella Casad
F	Born: 5 December 1877 in: Summerfield, St. Clair Co., IL
	Died: 30 October 1971 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS
	Spouse: James F. Larkin
2	Name: Allie (Lenora) Casad
F	Born: 2 April 1881 in: Crawford Co., KS
	Died: 1959
	Spouse: Alfred G. Hazen
3	Name: Orlena Fay Casad
F	Born: 20 July 1890 in: Crawford Co., KS
	Spouse: Fred A. Palmer
4	Name: Marguerite Finch Casad
F	Born: 14 November 1895 in: Crawford Co., KS
	Died: 12 July 1896 in: Crawford Co., KS
5	Name: Josephine Mildred Casad
F	Born: 23 August 1897 in: Crawford Co., KS
	Spouse: Charles E. Smith

Family Group Sheet

Husband: William S. Babcock Canada

Born: 1826 October 18 in: New York
 Died: 1908 July 1861 in: Crawford County, Kansas r Co., IL

Wife: Martha Ann Wood

Born: 1825 in: New York
 Died: 1914 in: Crawford County, Kansas

CHILDREN

1 Name: Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock
 Born: 22 July 1853 in: Taylorville, New York
 Married: 20 September 1876 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
 F Co., IL
 Died: 6 November 1933 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co.,
KS
 Spouse: Orla Samuel Casad in: Clinton County, Illinois

2 Name: Kate Babcock
 F Born: 1857 in: Clinton County, Illinois

3 Name: Martha Babcock
 F Born: AFTER 1857 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
Co., IL
 Spouse: Mr. Holtslander in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co

4 Name: George Babcock KS
 M Born: 1862 in: 'Allie' Mary Babcock

5 Name: Mary Alice Casad
 F Born: 1 April 1848 in: Clinton County, Illinois
 Died: 15 October 1856 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois

6 Name: Anthony Wayne Casad
 M Born: June 1850 in: Clinton County, Illinois
 Died: 1855 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois

7 Name: Laura A. Casad
 F Born: 1852
 Died: AFTER 1876

8 Name: Herbert Casad
 M Born: 7 April 1845 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois
 Died: 17 November 1860 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois

9 Name: Cassian M. Casad
 M Born: 9 December 1852 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois
 Died: 12 February 1862 in: Summerfield, St. Clair
County, Illinois

Family Group Sheet

Husband: John Milton "Milt" Casad

Born: 15 October 1817 in: Ohio
 Died: 27 July 1861 in: Summerfield, St. Clair Co., IL
 Father: Anthony Wayne Casad
 Mother: Anna Stites

Wife: Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann Moore

Born: 1817 in: Clinton County, IL
 Died: January 1902 in: Wichita, Sedgewick Co., KS

CHILDREN

1 M	Name: Edgar (Finch) Casad Born: 1842 in: Clinton County, Illinois
2 M	Name: Charles Calmir Casad Born: 31 January 1846 in: Clinton County, Illinois Died: 28 March 1862 in: Paducah, Kentucky
3 M	Name: Orla Samuel Casad Born: 31 January 1846 in: Clinton County, Illinois Married: 20 September 1876 in: Summerfield, St. Clair Co., IL Died: 24 May 1928 in: Pittsburg, Crawford Co., KS Spouse: Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock
4 F	Name: Mary Alice Casad Born: 1 April 1848 in: Clinton County, Illinois Died: 15 October 1856 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois
5 M	Name: Anthony Wayne Casad Born: June 1850 in: Clinton County, Illinois Died: 1855 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois
6 F	Name: Laura A. Casad Born: 1852 Died: AFTER 1926
7 M	Name: Herbert Casad Born: 7 April 1855 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois Died: 17 November 1860 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois
8 M	Name: Casiss M. Casad Born: 9 December 1858 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois Died: 10 February 1862 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois

Husband: Anthony Wayne Casad

Born: 22 May 1791 in: Sussex Co., New York
Married: 6 February 1811
Died: 16 December 1857 in: St. Clair, Co., Illinois
Father: Thomas Casad
Mother: Abigail Tingley
Other Spouses: Elizabeth, Hannah C.

Wife: Anna Stites

Born: 10 December 1796 in: Somerset Co., New Jersey
Died: 16 July 1838 in: St. Clair Co., Illinois
Father: Samuel Stites
Mother: Martha

CHILDREN

1	Name: Martha Casad
F	Born: 9 August 1812 Died: 18 August 1813
2	Name: Thomas Casad
M	Born: 16 January 1816 in: Ohio Married: ABOUT 1843 Spouses: Jemima, Sarah V. Casad
3	Name: John Milton "Milt" Casad
M	Born: 15 October 1817 in: Ohio Died: 27 July 1861 in: Summerfield, St. Clair Co., IL Spouse: Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann Moore
4	Name: Harriet Casad
F	Born: 8 November 1819 Died: 15 March 1855 Spouse: Mr. Mitchell
5	Name: Lavina Casad
F	Born: 17 October 1821
6	Name: Caroline C. Casad
F	Born: 19 December 1823
7	Name: Samuel S. Casad
M	Born: 11 November 1825 in: Illinois Spouse: Sarah M.
8	Name: Amanda Kezia Casad
F	Born: 18 August 1827
9	Name: Issac D. Casad
M	Born: 6 April 1829 Spouse: Mary E.
10	Name: Anthony T. Casad
M	Born: 16 February 1831 Died: 5 March 1851
11	Name: Abigail Ann Casad
F	Born: 20 November 1832 Died: 7 July 1834
12	Name: Margaret Finley Casad
F	Born: 13 August 1835 Died: 13 October 1837
13	Name: Charles Holliday Casad
M	Born: 29 December 1836 Died: 25 December 1848

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Thomas Casad

Born: 16 January 1816 in: Ohio

Married: ABOUT 1843

Father: Anthony Wayne Casad

Mother: Anna Stites

Other Spouses: Sarah V. Casad

Wife: Jemima V. Casad

Born: 1820 in: Tennessee

Died: 30 June 1857 in: Summerfield, St. Clair County,
Illinois

CHILDREN

1 Name: Ellen J. Casad
F Born: 1845

2 Name: Anna Casad
F Born: 1848

3 Name: Herman Casad
M Born: ABOUT 1851

4 Name: Partis Casad
M Born: ABOUT 1853

5 Name: Alice Casad
F Born: 1873

6 Name: Jesse Casad
F Born: 1874

7 Name: Gertrude Casad
F Born: 1876

8 Name: Darwin Casad
M Born: 1878

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Thomas Casad

Born: 16 January 1816 in: Ohio

Married: AFTER 1857

Father: Anthony Wayne Casad

Mother: Anna Stites

Other Spouses: Jemima

Wife: Sarah V. Casad

Born: ABOUT 1836 in: Illinois

CHILDREN

1	Name: Sarah Casad
F	Born: 1860
2	Name: Jennie Casad
F	Born: 1865
3	Name: Maude Casad
F	Born: 1867
4	Name: Humbold Casad
M	Born: 1868
5	Name: Thomas Casad, Junior
M	Born: 1870
6	Name: Alice Casad
F	Born: 1872
7	Name: Jesse Casad
F	Born: 1874
8	Name: Gertrude Casad
F	Born: 1876
9	Name: Darwin Casad
M	Born: 1878

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Samuel S. Casad

Born: 11 November 1825 in: Illinois
 Father: Anthony Wayne Casad
 Mother: Anna Stites

Wife: Sarah M.

Born: 1828 in: Illinois

CHILDREN

1	Name: Preble Casad
M	Born: 1850
2	Name: Mary Casad
F	Born: 1853
3	Name: Lucy Casad
F	Born: 1856
4	Name: Cloudy Casad
F	Born: 1859
1	Humbold Casad 1868-
2	Thomas Casad, Junior 1870-
3	Alice Casad 1872-
4	Jesse Casad 1874-
5	Gertrude Casad 1876-
6	Darwin Casad 1878-
7	John Milton "Milt" Casad 1881-1861
8	Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Moore 1817-1902
9	Edgar (Finch) Casad 1847-
10	Charles Calmer Casad 1846-1862
11	Orin Samuel Casad 1846-1878
12	Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock 1851-1933
13	Estel Estelle Casad 1877-1971
14	James F. Larkin 1878-1919
15	Allie (Lucora) Casad 1881-1889
16	Alfred G. Hazen 1877-1917
17	Alfred Casad Hazen 1901-1953
18	James O. Hazen 1912-1937
19	Oriana Fay Casad 1890-
20	Fred A. Palmer
21	Marguerite Finch Casad 1895 1895
22	Josephine Mildred Casad 1897-
23	Charles E. Smith
24	Mary Alice Casad 1846-1856
25	Anthony Wayne Casad 1850-1855
26	Laura A. Casad 1852-AFTER 1876
27	Herbert Casad 1855-1860

Descendants of Anthony Wayne Casad 1852-1922

1 Anthony Wayne Casad 1791-1857
 . +Elizabeth 1821-
 . *2nd spouse of Anthony Wayne Casad:
 . +Anna Stites 1796-1838
 . 2 Martha Casad 1812-1813
 . 2 Thomas Casad 1816-1850
 +Jemima 1820-1857
 3 Ellen J. Casad 1845-
 3 Anna Casad 1848-
 3 Herman Casad ABOUT 1851-
 3 Partis Casad ABOUT 1853-
 *2nd spouse of Thomas Casad:
 +Sarah V. Casad ABOUT 1836-
 3 Sarah Casad 1860-1834
 3 Jennie Casad 1865-1835-1837
 3 Maude Casad 1867-1836-1848
 3 Humboldt Casad 1868-
 3 Thomas Casad, Junior 1870-
 3 Alice Casad 1872-
 3 Jesse Casad 1874-
 3 Gertrude Casad 1876-
 3 Darwin Casad 1878-
 . 2 John Milton "Milt" Casad 1817-1861
 +Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann Moore 1817-1902
 3 Edgar (Finch) Casad 1842-
 3 Charles Calmir Casad 1846-1862
 3 Orla Samuel Casad 1846-1928
 +Alice "Allie" Mary Babcock 1853-1933
 4 Ethel Estella Casad 1877-1971
 +James F. Larkin 1878-1919
 4 Allie (Lenora) Casad 1881-1959
 +Alfred G. Hazen 1877-1937
 5 Alfred Casad Hazen 1901-1953
 5 James O. Hazen 1912-1937
 4 Orlena Fay Casad 1890-
 +Fred A. Palmer
 4 Marguerite Finch Casad 1895-1896
 4 Josephine Mildred Casad 1897-
 +Charles E. Smith
 3 Mary Alice Casad 1848-1856
 3 Anthony Wayne Casad 1850-1855
 3 Laura A. Casad 1852-AFTER 1926
 3 Herbert Casad 1855-1860

.....	3	Casiss M. Casad	1858-1862
.	2	Harriet Casad	1819-1855
....		+Mr. Mitchell	
.	2	Lavina Casad	1821-
.	2	Caroline C. Casad	1823-
.	2	Samuel S. Casad	1825-
....		+Sarah M.	1828-
.....	3	Preble Casad	1850-
.....	3	Mary Casad	1853-
.....	3	Lucy Casad	1856-
.....	3	Cloudy Casad	1859-
.	2	Amanda Kezia Casad	1827-
.	2	Issac D. Casad	1829-
....		+Mary E.	1841-
.	2	Anthony T. Casad	1831-1851
.	2	Abigail Ann Casad	1832-1834
.	2	Margaret Finley Casad	1835-1837
.	2	Charles Holliday Casad	1836-1848
		*3rd spouse of Anthony Wayne Casad:	
.		+Hannah C.	1811-
.	2	Anna Casad	AFTER 1829-
.	2	Narissa Ann Casad	1850-

Source: Compiled from U.S. and State Census 1850-1900

APPENDIX B

Table III. Census Confirmation for Orla S. Casad.

1850	U.S. Census (IL) Clinton Co.
1860	U.S. Census (IL) St. Clair Co.
1870	Not located -- checked St. Clair Co.
1880	U.S. Census (KS) Beulah, Crawford Co.
1885	State Census (KS) Cherokee, Crawford Co.
1890	U.S. Census destroyed
1895	State Census (KS) City of Pittsburg
1900	U.S. Census (KS) City of Pittsburg, Ward 3, Crawford Co.

Source: Compiled from U.S. and State Census 1850-1900

38.43 acres/\$1.25 ea	Sec 2, Twp 1N, Range 5W
40 acres/\$1.25 ea	Sec 19, Twp 2N, Range 5W

Source: State of Illinois Archives Division Public Domain
Sales Land Tract Record Listing, Page 4166.

APPENDIX C

Table IV. Land Purchased by Anthony Wayne Casad.

40 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 27, Twp 2N, Range 6W
40 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 27, Twp 2N, Range 6W
160 acres/\$2.00 ea.	Sec 28, Twp 2N, Range 5W
160 acres/\$2.00 ea.	Sec 2, Twp 1N, Range 5W
160 acres/\$2.00 ea.	Sec 3, Twp 1N, Range 5W
80 acres/\$2.00 ea.	Sec 20, Twp 2N, Range 5W
80 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 21, Twp 2N, Range 6W
80 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 22, Twp 2N, Range 5W
40 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 19, Twp 2N, Range 5W
80 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 33, Twp 2N, Range 5W
38.43 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 2, Twp 1N, Range 5W
40 acres/\$1.25 ea.	Sec 19, Twp 2N, Range 5W

Source: State of Illinois Archives Division Public Domain Sales Land Tract Record Listing, Page 4366.

Figure 15. A Letter from Orla to Allie, Page 1.
Source: Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 19 October 1877. Special Collections, Leonard N. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

APPENDIX D

Letter From Orla Casad to Allie Casad.

Mesilla N.M.
Oct 19 79

My Dear Wife

We returned from the scout-
last-evening, traveling 160 miles, remaining
in the saddle most of the time, there were
70 men, etc. By sunrise in camp made.
We did not meet the Indians they having fled
to the Florida Mountains. Gov Wallace
will be in Mesilla Sunday, on which occasion
it is proposed to raise sufficient force to
clean out the Indians. 3 Indians was at
the Brazito, on account of which all stock
was brought in. We buried 17 of the dead
and brought some in. If necessary I shall go
to the Floritas, though I am unwell, had a
hard chill the first night out, which was
occasioned for want of proper clothing and
dry skin, having none, and thoughtless as to the
weather I failed to get away. The first night out-

Figure 15. A Letter from Orla to Allie, Page 1.

Source: Orla Samuel Casad, Mesilla, New Mexico, to Alice Mary Babcock Casad, Summerfield, Illinois, 19 October 1879, Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.

we got very wet, and then burning coal, more than
one of us did not perceive any fun in hunting
Indians, otherwise we did well and I felt no
concerned as to whether we met them or not. It
will take a large force to drive them from
the Florida, those mountains are a portion of
I hunted in last winter and are very rocky
and consist of large lava beds. The most of
the fighting will have to be done on foot.
The Indians drove off over a thousand head
of cattle, rifled two trains on the Silver City
road, 33 miles west of Mexican, Jones was not scalp-
ed but two of the Mexicans were, one had his nose
cut off. I will take a trip to the west of town
today, Goyde's horse, where small Capt. Lane
his mule, was killed up a road named
Morton's. Goyde came to me and says
the road is now cleaned out. I replied
dear - the weather is very cool and I do not
know when I will go to Texas not until we
get through the Indians. I am not well today
but hope to be all right pretty soon already.
I love the baby, and tell your father I am off to the
war, I love you and —

Your Husband

[Oleasad]

Figure 16. A Letter from Orla to Allie, Page 2.
Source: Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library,
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas.