

**FIRST
ADMINISTRATION
OF OKLAHOMA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649122455

First administration of Oklahoma by John S. Brooks

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN S. BROOKS

**FIRST
ADMINISTRATION
OF OKLAHOMA**

FIRST
ADMINISTRATION
OF
OKLAHOMA

PREFACE

This volume is offered to the public in the hope that it will give its readers a general idea of the First Administration of the Government of the State of Oklahoma. It contains a brief story of the Opening of the Country to settlement, and also a story of the making of the Constitution.

THE PUBLISHERS

Nov. 5, 1906

THE OPENING
OF
OKLAHOMA



THE OPENING OF OKLAHOMA to settlement on the twenty-second of April, 1889, marked a new era in the history of modern civilization. Heretofore the movements of population and the creation of States had been slow compared with the avalanche which swept into Oklahoma in a single day and laid the foundation of a commonwealth destined to be one of the most populous and progressive in the Federal constellation. The picturesque and surging masses that crossed the border on that eventful day represented a movement that had existed for many years. It was a drama in civilization such as the world never saw before and will never see again.

The movement was originated and led by men of determined purpose and of conspicuous courage. With them the idea to make here a State was no idle dream. They foresaw as with prophetic vision the magnificent possibilities that clustered around the promised land. They fully comprehended that the settlement of Oklahoma would be a departure from the beaten path of immigration which had advanced along the lines of latitude West, and that here in the center of the Continent, midway between the North and South, would be a fraternal union of people from all sections of our common country. With Payne and Couch, and those acquainted with them in the Oklahoma crusade for free homes, the conception of the future was not less entrancing than that of Coronado, the Spanish explorer, who led an expedition in 1540 from Mexico across Oklahoma to the northern boundry of Kansas, a distance of more than three thousand miles, in search of the fabled province of Quivira. The one was a selfish crusade for gold and silver, and for new dominions for the Spanish crown, and the other was the outburst of a peace-

ful civilization essential for the happiness and prosperity of unborn millions of the future. It has been well said "there is nothing in the history of any country or government that can be compared with the peaceful settlement of Oklahoma."

The close of the civil war gave a new impetus to Western emigration. Both in the North and South conditions were unsettled. It was but natural therefore that public attention should be attracted to the unoccupied lands of Oklahoma. Their fertility, their geographical location, and a genial climate, presented an alluring picture to the multitudes that were seeking new homes.

As early as 1856 a movement was made in Congress to establish civil government here. Hon. Robert T. Van Horn, a distinguished member of Congress, from the Kansas City district in Missouri, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to provide a territorial government to include all of the Indian Territory. The opposition to the bill was determined and nearly unanimous. The treaty stipulation with the Five Tribes that their Territory should never be included within the limits of any Territory or State, was regarded as an impossible barrier to the proposed legislation. In the following Congress, the bill was introduced by Mr. Van Horn and met with the same fate. In no way discouraged, the bill was again proposed to the Forty-first Congress, favorably considered by the committee on Indian affairs, reported to the House, elaborately discussed, but no final action was taken. It was more than ten years after before any serious movement was made to open the country to white settlement. Capt. David L. Payne, a native of Indiana, who was a soldier in the Union army, and who was familiar with the country, took up the battle and waged it with a courage that few men possess. He was a natural leader of the restless population who were seeking new homes on the public domains. Capt. Wm. L.