

PAYNE COUNTY

# Historical Review

EARLY SETTLEMENTS EDITION



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## Payne County Historical Society

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The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* is published semi-annually by the Payne County Historical Society. It is distributed without additional charge to the members of the Payne County Historical Society. Single issues, when available, may be purchased at \$3.50 each.

The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* welcomes reader's comments, news, or requests for information from readers. Family histories, photographs, or maps are also welcome. No payment is made for articles published in the *REVIEW*.

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## FIRE SIDE CHAT

of

### THE LYTTON BUILDING

By Frances Escue

I will introduce myself again - I am Mrs. Dale Lytton and we moved here a year ago (1900) to put in a hardware store. We came here from Nebraska and Mr. Lytton, in the land run, got a claim two and one half miles east of here. After looking around here we decided definitely that there was a need for more stores. Buildings are going up so fast in this area. In fact, in the last two months, fifty small frame businesses have been completed and are stocked with merchandise. It has been a busy place. Streets are busy and we need more workers. If your husband or sons need work, come here.

My husband and I decided to build a much larger building, possibly three floors, and to lease or rent out the top two floors if we didn't need them. There are four brick companies in town - one is Jardot's, one is Stillwater Brick Company. I forgot the names of the other two. Mr. Jardot was building the Opera House so we decided to have him build this building. We do like the location which is right in the center of town and the business district. The Jardot company made our bricks and they did not put a name on them which most of the brick companies do. They are having to make them in such a hurry. They probably do not have time for that. They are very rough bricks.

The Pacific Hotel is right across the street so the workers who are from out of town can stay there. There is plenty of work for all. A broom factory is being built down by the railroad tracks and some mills are going up, also, a bottling factory.

We had quite a time getting all this merchandise in for it had to be hauled in by wagon and horses. It is a five hour trip to Orlando to the west of us and a three and a half hour trip to Perry to meet either a north or south bound train, so it takes all day to get the stock here.

Come on inside with me, there are plenty of chairs by the fire. If you will look around in this store, you will see various things for different occupations and, of course, how to display them was a problem for us. The bins are full of different kind of nails. One for screws, one for tacks, etc.

We have wheels of different kinds of wiring, for the townspeople are beginning to get some electricity. We are tired of lanterns.

On the walls are hanging lanterns and camping equipment of all kinds, for some travelers need new equipment and some farmers need new equipment of replacements. Those heating or cooking stoves you see in the back can be used for coal or wood. Very often coal supplies run out before freight brings the next carload here. If we order a car load it is dumped on the ground down by the depot and we take a wagon down there to get it.

There is a lake out there on the Yost farm to the northeast that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe freight and passenger trains go by. The coal is dumped there by the big water tank and farmers come there to buy coal.

We have lots of tinware such as dishes, pots and pans, buckets and dippers. There is a dipper and bucket of water back there if any of you need a drink. Which reminds me, we have three town pumps in the center of each of these three blocks. If we need water we take a bucket and go to the pump.

We have shingles, doors and moldings here in case some builders need them and we order them and it takes a while to get in the stock. We do have barrels of flour and we have feeds for the animals.

Stillwater started getting in phones last year. It is a dollar a month for residential phones. Mr. Simank started the making of ice last year. His plant is also by the railroad tracks. Everyone really appreciates getting the ice. The company has several ice wagons.

We have a fire wagon for Stillwater. It is horse drawn of course. The fire captain told me the other day, when there is a fire, the men have to go across the street to Meyers Delivery to borrow the horses.

The mail carrier will be by in a few minutes and I must remember to buy stamps. The Post Office right now is an old desk in the Swiler Brothers building on Main Street. They do plumbing. I do like the Swiler women. In their building is also the Otoe Agency. I think the Post Office opened in 1889. That's when they moved the desk in.

I forgot to mention what else is hanging back there from the ceiling and that is horse collars and blankets. The Shiveley Livery Stable is down in the next

block and they have hacks, buggies, and wagons to rent. I have a disk from there but I left it at home. Had to take a hack the other day.

Mr. Otto Gray has rented the 2nd floor to live in. He is moving in now. Masonic Lodge has rented the top floor.

When Mr. Lytton walks up from the depot, I am going to the top floor to check on it. Lots of steps! Mrs. Virginia Thomas is having a tea up there this afternoon.

Mrs. Pierce, next door, has a millinery store. The sign in front says "Madame Pierce's Millinery." She does make beautiful hats.

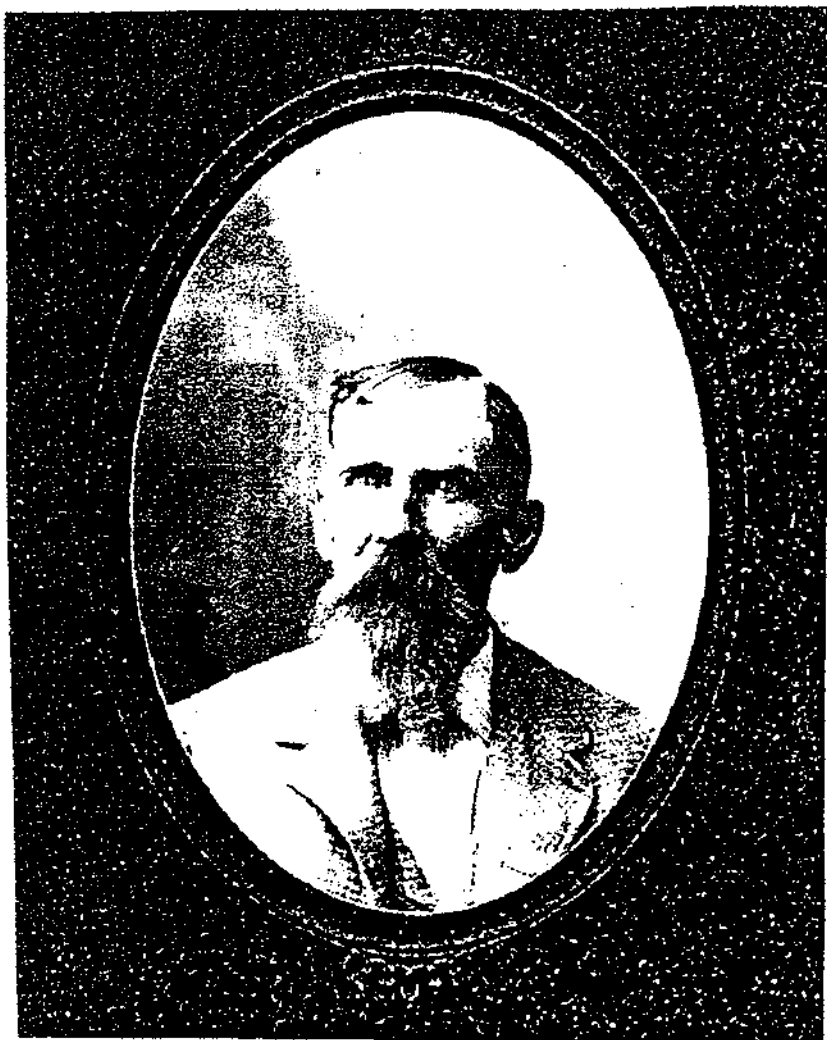
Maybe that is where "Saturday Mag" gets her hats or material.

Another thing, some of my friends belong to the Christian Science Church. This is the first one west of the Mississippi.

Thank you for coming. Please push your chairs back away from the stove. The outhouse is out the back door and across the alley if anyone needs to go now or whenever you are in town.

You come again and come in and sit a spell.

Note: This was a talk by Mrs. Escue to the Stillwater Rotary Club. Mr. Simank and Mrs. Thomas were both members of the club. While Bill and Virginia were not even born in the early years of Stillwater both families contributed to the establishment of Stillwater.



**MATHIAS HOYT**  
**(1844-1912)**

Mathias Hoyt was born in Ohio on 17 May 1844 and died in Oklahoma on 12 January 1912. He served in Company K, 26th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He entered the service as a private and left as a First Sergeant. Mathias and his two sons, Bruner and Albert, participated in the Oklahoma Run of 22 September 1891 and he moved the family to an area near Avery, Oklahoma. The town is now deserted but was about six miles south of Cushing, Payne County, Oklahoma. He was a farmer, a Justice of the Peace in Cushing and an owner of a harness shop.



**The Story of Mathias Hoyt  
as told by  
Marville Washinka**

On an early morning in September 1891, Mathias Hoyt, my great grandfather, and his two older sons, Albert and Bruner, jumped on their horses and took off from their Elk County, Kansas home to participate in the great land run in Oklahoma.

Oscar Hoyt, my grandfather, only 17 years old, was too young to stake a claim so his father, Mat assigned him to the duty of caring for his mother and two sisters. The mother, Matilda had not been well. She suffered from respiratory illness from time to time, so Oscar was to travel with her and his sisters by covered wagon to a more arid climate in Colorado or New Mexico to make her more comfortable. They did this for several weeks.

After Mat and the older boys had arranged for quarters for the family they notified Oscar to bring them on to Payne County, Oklahoma where they had staked a claim six miles south of Cushing.

It was late in the day when they arrived at Stillwater Creek where several others had pitched camp. (I think this was in the area of Couch Park).

Grandma Matilda, the mother, was very tired so they decided to spend the night there. She spent a very restless night, tossing and turning and coughing.

Others who were campers were caring and concerned, offering various suggestions as to how to ease her distress. One suggestion was to make an expectorant of rock candy and rye whiskey. Only one problem, Oscar was underage so he could not legally buy rye whiskey. So the friendly campers volunteered to buy it for him.

It was a very successful treatment. They had a good rest and proceeded to Cushing the next day.

My grandfather always remembered Stillwater with much affection.

**Grandmother's Story**

Lillie May Spangler, wife of Oscar Hoyt, was born January 18, 1877 in

Lancaster, Pa. She came to Kansas with her parents when she was two years old. They landed south of Bunker Hill, Kansas, one mile North of Smoky Hill River, lived in a one room house with basement facing South. This home was built in the side of a hill where there was a spring of water. The cool water was so good to drink, she told of it many times.

Then they moved, by covered wagon, to Cowley County, Kansas. One evening they cooked supper over a campfire. The fire was made by pulling up wheat stubble to burn. One of the party had killed a prairie chicken. It was a memorable occasion.

Grandmother told of walking to school and a storm got worse and worse and by noon the teacher decided we should go home. They started for home, but they had to climb up quite a hill and when they got to the top the wind nearly blew them over. We were only a short distance from school so some of the children came home with us. We were all about frozen. But we were immediately taken care of by putting our hands and feet in cold water; our teacher even went with some of the kids to be sure they all got home. They all got home.

In those early days it was even fun to ride horses, herd the cattle, cut corn, top turnips, and do all kinds of chores. The girls did most of the house work and the boys did the outside chores. Sometimes the girls and boys would hurry to get the work done so they could have fun. Often we made molasses taffy. After we got it cooked everyone had all the taffy they could hold and pull, everyone was pulling taffy.

One time the folks came home from shopping in town too soon so we hid the candy and had it to eat almost a week.

#### On to Oklahoma

In June of 1892, the family came to Oklahoma settling six miles South of Cushing in the Sac and Fox country. We made the trip to Oklahoma in a covered wagon.

It was in Oklahoma that Oscar Hoyt, my grandfather married Lillie May Spangler, August 1893. They had a family of ten children: 6 girls and 4 boys.

Vera Aletha, my mother was born 7 November 1894, Died 19 February 1993.

The other children were Edna Matilda, Anna Ruth, Leta Maud, Nellie Lorene, Lester (Dean) Lewis, Viva Mae, Harold Boyd, Darrel Vernon, and Foster Eugene.

They first lived in a one room house 12 x 14, then later moved to Mathias Hoyt's farm and lived in a "dug out" for three or four years.

Then they bought a little farm consisting of 80 acres, raising corn and kaffir corn, cotton, cane, had fruit, a garden, milked cows, raised hogs and chickens. They lived there for six years, a very happy family.

Then they built a home in a little town of Avery. Their last Oklahoma home was just north of Avery and lived there 23 1/2 years.

Vera Aletha, my mother, was married to Homer Boyd Merriett. Their children were Marvelle Lorene Merritt (Washinka) and Homer Joe Merritt. Both Homer and I attended Oklahoma A & M College.

Homer Boyd Merriett was Station Agent for the Santa Fe Railroad in Stillwater. He helped establish Yost Lake. He also taught Telegraphy at Oklahoma State University during World War II.

Marvelle Lorene Merritt married Jackson Hofley Washinka and their children were:

Pricilla Anita Washinka (now Kinnick)  
Jacqueline Aletha Washinka (now Foster)  
Mary Ann Washinka (now Grinsley)



#### FIVE GENERATIONS OF HOYTS

Front row, left to right , Oscar Hoyt, Jacque Ann Kinnick (baby) and Vera (Hoyt) Merritt. Back row, left to right; Pricilla (Washinka) Kinnick and Marville (Merritt) Washinka.



**Milton Fitz Randolph  
and  
Myrtle Nina Stewart**

By Sally Randolph Banks

**Milton Fitz Randolph**

Milton Randolph made the run into Oklahoma in 1889, settling near Noble County, still in Payne County. Later the boundary was changed and the claim was in Noble County. It was there that on November 28, 1898, Robert Ray Randolph was born. The family moved to California in 1903.

When Robert was 15 years old, his father wanted him to quit school and work in the vineyards. Robert didn't much like that idea and came back to Oklahoma where he had grandparents. He put himself through prep school and then received his B.S. in Dairy Science on May 28, 1921, at Oklahoma A. & M. College (now Oklahoma State University.)

**Myrtle Nina Stewart**

On a claim near Mehan, Myrtle Nina Stewart was born March 16, 1901, to Cora May Bartholomew Stewart and George A. Stewart. As happened in those early days of few doctors, Myrtle was born at home with Grandmother Cora May Lile assisting with the birth.

George and Cora May Stewart had five children, all born on the home place, where they operated a dairy herd of purebred Jerseys.



Apr 1918

Stewart Home - 1 mi. N. Mehan.

Above is the Stewart homeplace, one mile north of Mehan, as it looked about 1918. The home still stands, but has been modernize.

Robert and Myrtle met while attending Oklahoma A & M College. They dated for two or three years. Since Robert lived with his grandparents near Noble County, he often walked ten miles to the Stewart farm near Mehan to see Myrtle. It was at the Stewart home that they were married May 30, 1920, with grandmother Lile performing the ceremony.

Their first child was born in September 1921 at the Stewart home near Mehan. Doctors were not as plentiful as they are today, so Grandmother Lile helped with the difficult birth.

They had six children: Dorothea E. Randolph Hopper (deceased), Bette Jayne Randolph Tracey, Robert R. Randolph, Jr. (deceased), Helen Lorayne Randolph Cobb, Donald Gene Randolph (deceased) and Eneth Ann "Sally" Randolph Banks.

While Myrtle was a homemaker and helpmate, she made time to work side by side with Robert. Robert received his BS degree in Dairy Science on May 28, 1921 at Oklahoma A & M College (now Oklahoma State University.)

The Depression was difficult for Robert and Myrtle. They had a delivery service and sold bread and eggs, but they were not always paid. So they had to take bankruptcy. Unlike many people of those times, they worked hard and finally paid the bankruptcy off.

In 1939 they returned to Stillwater and had a home on McGeorge St., now the location of Bennett Hall.

In 1940 they bought the Aggieland Cafe at 107 S Knoblock. As usual, Myrtle was the helpmate. She was noted for her delicious pies. And the pies were a favorite of her grandchildren. She was always careful to make each child their favorite pie. And sometimes when the families got together that meant that she had to make as many as 8 to 10 pies.

To the great grandchildren she was known as Grandma Apple to distinguish her as the great grandmother. Joseph, the adopted son of Michael D. Banks, gave her that name.

At one time they took care of their 44 rental units. Myrtle helped paint and clean their rental properties from 1950 to 1973 when they disposed of the properties. She also had a large garden and flower beds during those years. She enjoyed her family.

In addition to her work with Robert and her family, Myrtle did beautiful handwork. Her tatting was truly a work of art.

Robert Randolph did many things. He helped organize the Payne and Murray counties Co-ops, and taught vocational agriculture for years. He operated his own dairies in Sulphur, and Ada, Oklahoma.

He taught GI-on-the-job training, taught math to GIs stationed at the A & M campus.

He served one term on the City Commission from 1963-1966. Served as commander of Hanner-Sharp American Legion Post No. 129 for two terms.

He attained the title of Worshipful Master of the Masonic Frontier Lodge and received his 65 year pin. He was a 32 degree Mason with the Guthrie Consistory, and was a member of the Glencoe Masonic Lodge.

From 1953 until his death in 1988, Robert and Myrtle lived at 1203 Main Street on 28 acres which are now in the middle of town. Robert had planted many pecan trees on the acreage and won several awards with his "seedling" varieties. The Randolph Pecan has now been noted as "Randolph" variety.

Randolph Court housing development now occupies some of the acreage and the Randolph Pecan Tree is located in the back yard at 107 E. Randolph, Stillwater, Oklahoma.





Myrtle Stewart Randolph  
Robert Ray Randolph



Robert Ray, Sr., Milton H., & Robert A., Jr.



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 6183

Application 9725

or the Land Office at Joshua, Oklahoma whereby it appears that, pursuant

to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of

Milton Randolph has been established and duly substantiated, in conformity to law, by the

North half of the South West quarter of Section twenty-seven, in Township twenty South

of Range one East of Indian Meridian in Oklahoma, containing twenty acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Sovereign Geologist:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Milton Randolph

the tract of Land above described; To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances

thereof, unto the said Milton Randolph and to his

heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, Frederick Roosevelt President of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, this 25th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand

also hundred and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty eighth

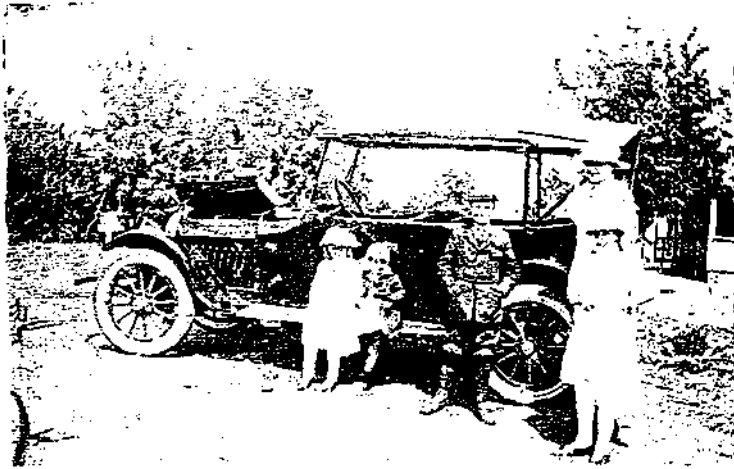
By the President, F. Roosevelt

F. M. McKeamy

McKeamy Register of the General Land Office



Joshua, Oklahoma, 11/19, 1919



Stewart Children-Ada, Alice,George, Pearl  
Myrtle (behind) about 1918



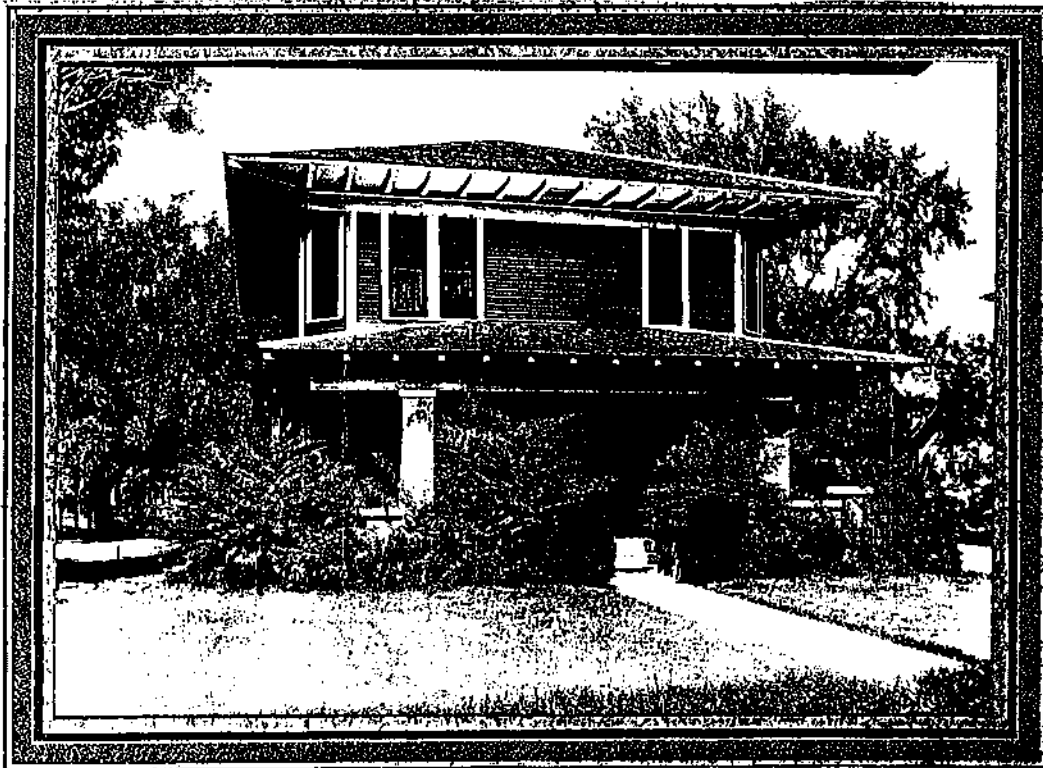
Randolph's Dairy Products  
Sulpher, OK 1932 with children  
Dorthea,Helen, Bob Jr.



Aggieland Cafe  
107 S. Knoblock



Myrtle Stewart Randolph  
Robert Ray Randolph -1953



This is the early home of Frances Jenkins Escue  
on the corner of 6th and S. Duck.  
It is now Cowboy Corner.  
The *Review* welcomes pictures of old buildings.

Payne County Historical Society is organized in order to bring together people interested in history and especially the history of Payne County, Oklahoma. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any materials that may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area.

Membership in the Payne County Historical Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Payne County history. Membership dues are: \$12.00 for Individual Membership, \$17.00 for Family Membership; \$20.00 for Institutional Membership; Life Membership is for those paying \$100.00 in one year. Membership applications and dues should be sent to the treasurer.

All Members receive copies of the *REVIEW* Free. In addition the Society sponsors informative meetings and historical outings several times a year.

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Yes, I want to be a member of the Payne County Historical Society.  
Enclosed is my check for:

- \$12.00 for Individual Membership
- \$17.00 for Family Membership
- \$20.00 for Institutional Membership
- \$100.00 for Life Membership

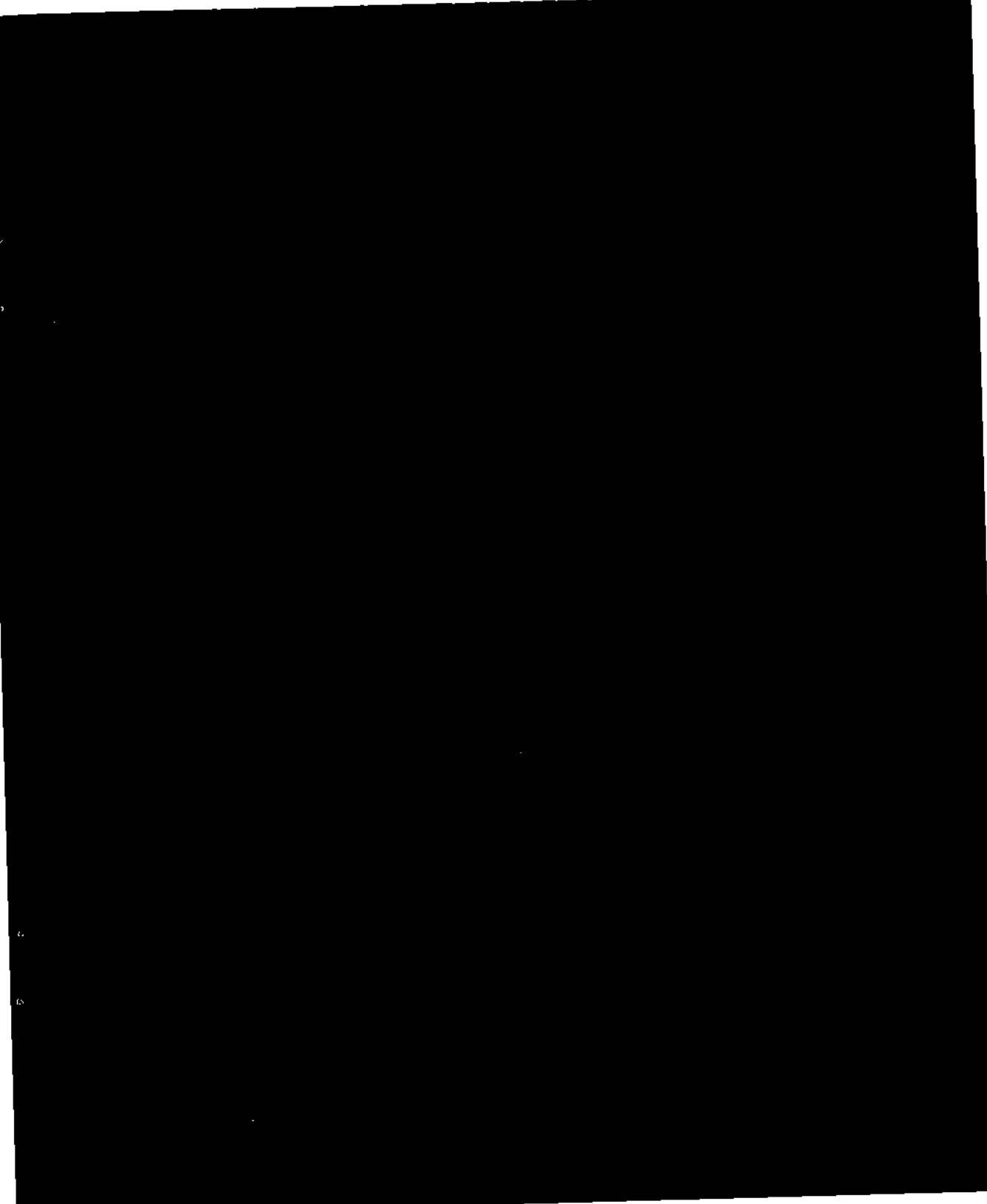
(Membership includes subscription to the *Payne County Historical Review*.)

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