

## CHAPTER XXI

### The Bar of Rice County

The recent settlement of Rice County has not made it an inviting field to the profession. Most of the lawyers here at present do not rely upon legal business for their livelihood, land agencies and other occupations furnishing them more lucrative business. Many of them cultivate their own farms. (Ed. Note — Muscott, himself is an attorney and seemed called upon to limit any further competition.)

There are seven lawyers now living in the county, vis: Ansel R. Clark, J. H. Ricksecker, G. W. Voyles, W. Fuller, James H. Smith, W. B. Conner, J. M. Muscott. In addition to these W. F. Wallace, A. McFarland, Mr. Fierse, S. N. Wood, I. L. Fulton, W. P. Brown and Thomas Haun were once residents of this county and have removed therefrom, making fifteen lawyers who have resided in the county since its organization.

Of the foregoing number only Messrs. Clark, Smith, Voyles, Fuller and Muscott are practicing their profession. Judge Conner, ex-probate judge, having retired to his farm, and Mr. Ricksecker being engaged in land agencies and in the hotel business. Hon. Ansel R. Clark, our present representative in the legislature from this county, and ex-county attorney of this county; A. McFarland and Judge Conner, emigrated to this state from Illinois; G. W. Voyles, now probate judge of the county and R. F. Whitelaw came from Missouri to this state; Mr. Muscott from New York and Mr. Ricksecker, our ex-county attorney, from Ohio.

I have been unable to obtain the ages, places of nativity and dates of admission to the bar of our Rice County lawyers. Mr. Muscott was admitted to practice in 1840. Mr. Fuller is a new-comer from the eastern part of the state. Mr. Smith came from Indiana to Kansas.

### Corrections

In the first chapter of this history I stated that the first settlement made in this county by white men was made by Earl Joslyn and J. Q. Adams, and that they entered the land under the Homestead Act September 5, 1870. Mr. J. D. Pardue of Union Township, in a letter to me of date of April 16, 1876, informs me that on the 28th day of February, 1870, C. S. Lindell, John A. Carlson and Andrew John Johnson filed and homesteaded claims as follows: (having staked out and selected their claims in February, 1870.) Mr. Lindell on southeast quarter of section 3, town 20, range 6; Mr. Carlson on northeast quarter of same section, Mr. Johnson on the northwest quarter of same section. Also that April 4, 1870, August Johnson, John Erick Johnson and J. P. Johnson located claims as follows: August Johnson on the southeast quarter of section 24, town 20, range 6; John Erick Johnson on the northeast quarter of section 25, same range and township; John P. Johnson on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 24

in the same range and township; and on the 18th day of April, 1870, O. W. Peterson on the northeast quarter of section 14 of the same range and township.

He further states that himself, R. M. Hutchinson and A. J. Howard, (firm of Hutchinson and Company) stopped on the Little Arkansas river August 20, 1870, with 4,000 head of cattle, that he and Howard had been citizens of this county ever since, although they did not locate their claims until January, 1871.

If Mr. Pardue's version be the correct one, then unquestionably Mr. Lindell and his neighbors above named and not Mr. Joslyn and Adams were the first settlers in the county.

Mr. J. H. Cruzen states that before any building in Peace was entirely enclosed, a Sunday school was organized and preaching had begun in the house of H. P. Ninde, on March 1, 1872, with Rev. J. B. Schlichter as superintendent. (Ed. Note: House located at south edge of Sterling Lake.)

The present population of the county March 1, 1876, is 3,152, namely:

Farmer .....	720
Sterling .....	653
Atlanta .....	613
Washington .....	415
Raymond .....	383
Union .....	368

In Chapter 14 it is erroneously stated that Davis Cairns and Miss McNames were the first couple married in Spencer, now Farmer Township. W. T. Nicholas, county clerk, and Amelia, daughter of Rev. F. J. Griffith, were the first parties married there.

Other errors in statistics no doubt have been discovered in this history, but are unavoidable to a certain extent in a work of this kind. I have taken unusual pains to avoid them and when brought to my notice have corrected them.

Very much to my regret in some localities I have obtained only meager items from local contributors, and in some places none. This will account for the bareness of incidents in certain portions of the county and ampler details in other portions.

Many thanks are due to the following gentlemen for their contributions of items for the History: Rev. J. B. Schlichter, and Rev. T. H. Watt, P. E. Hinshaw, and W. P. Edwards of Sterling; J. R. Bohrer, Alexander Clark and D. Coffman of Raymond; W. P. Summers, W. Magee, Rev. F. J. Griffith, O. Y. Smith, A. T. Sherwood and J. McNames of Farmers; Norman Reed and Commissioner J. K. Miller of Washington; A. Cady and J. E. Pardue of Union; Earl Joslyn, W. T. Nicholas, G. M. D. Goff, L. N. Kentner and ex-sheriff Howard of Atlanta, with others too numerous to mention.

**The End!**