

What was the early statehood movement?

Citizens of the twin territories had progress on their minds. They looked to the future and they were politically active. In 1900, a group from Indian Territory went to the Democratic National Convention in Kansas City. They nominated Benjamin Franklin Lafayette, a merchant from Fort Gibson, for vice president. He lost, but the attempt showed the people took themselves seriously. They wanted to matter in the make-up of the country. They felt that statehood was necessary to do that.

What happened at the first Oklahoma statehood convention? On December 16, 1891, Oklahoma City hosted the first statehood convention. Members demanded that the two territories be combined into one state. Sidney Clarke headed a committee to draft an enabling act. This kind of bill makes statehood possible.

The U.S. House of Representatives looked at this bill on January 25, 1892. After that, for fourteen years, every session of Congress saw one or more such bills. Some wanted to merge the twin territories. Some wanted to make Oklahoma Territory a single state and add Indian Territory to it later. Other bills suggested two separate states.

Who was E.P. McCabe? A group led by E.P. McCabe wanted their own state. McCabe had been state auditor in Kansas. He left there in 1889, when the Republican Party of Kansas would not let him run for a second term. He founded the town of Langston. Later he became auditor of Oklahoma Territory.

McCabe believed the only way for any group to have political power was as a voting majority. He wanted blacks to be the largest voting group in the region.

McCabe used his newspaper, the *Langston City Herald*, to bring blacks to the region. He urged them to seek political, social, and economic freedom here. Then he sent out his papers across the South.

Many people answered the call, but not enough. Around 1900, blacks made up the largest racial minority. But they were still only about 8 percent of the total population.



E. P. McCabe.
Oklahoma Historical Society

What was the movement for an Indian state? Until June 10, 1896, most Indian leaders opposed statehood of any kind. On that date, Congress told the Dawes Commission to begin enrollment for *allotment* without tribal consent. Indian leaders saw then that they could not stop statehood.

In 1902, they met in Eufaula to start a movement for a separate Indian state. They put together a committee. It met again the next year, but did not make any definite plans. This was the year William H. Murray became known for representing the Chickasaw Nation. A white man, he had married a Chickasaw and was a tribal citizen.

What was the Sequoyah Convention? Two leaders in the drive for an Indian State were James Norman and Charles N. Haskell. Norman was a Cherokee lobbyist. Haskell was an attorney and businessman. They called for a convention, which met in Muskogee on August 21, 1905. Attendees named Creek Chief Pleasant Porter as president. Next they picked vice presidents from the Five Civilized Tribes:

William H. Murray for the Chickasaws;
Chief John F. Brown for the Seminoles;
Green McCurtain for the Choctaws;
Charles N. Haskell for the Creeks; and
Chief W.C. Rogers for the Cherokees.

The members chose a committee to write a constitution. On November 7, the people of Indian Territory approved it with 56,000 of 65,000 votes. They sent it to Congress for approval. Sequoyah was the name for their state. They wanted Fort Gibson for its capital.

What was the Hamilton bill? Meanwhile, groups in Oklahoma Territory were pushing hard for single statehood. In 1905 alone, they sent Congress seven bills to make the twin territories a single state. The Sequoyah idea, then, got little attention. Congress passed the Hamilton Bill, also known as the Oklahoma Enabling Act, on June 16, 1906. It paved the way for a single, combined state.

The failure of the Sequoyah plan marked the end of Indian Territory and Indian separateness.

During the 1830s and 1840s, some Indians had stayed in the Southeast. They gave up their tribal identities and became American citizens. People who survived the Trail of Tears, and their descendants, assimilated more slowly. Events from 1889 to 1906 sped up the process. The U.S. allotted their lands, gave their other property away, and took over their governments. The only steps left to “Americanize” them were

Do You Know?

Charles Haskell was white and a loyal friend to Chief Pleasant Porter, who asked him to represent the Creeks.

statehood and citizenship.

What was the Oklahoma Enabling Act?

Congress passed the Hamilton Bill, also known as the Oklahoma Enabling Act, in 1906. It allowed the two territories to form a single state. The list below paraphrases the Act.

1. Voters should accept or reject the Act in an election on November 6, 1906.
2. The President of the United States should appoint election commissioners.
3. If the voters accepted the Act, they should convene to write a constitution. They should send 112 delegates to the convention. Fifty-five would be from each of the territories. Two would be from the Osage Nation, which would become a separate county.
4. Indian Territory and the Osage Nation should prohibit the sale of liquor for at least twenty-one years.
5. Guthrie should be the capital of the state until at least 1913.
6. The federal government should give \$5 million to support schools. This was to make up for the lack of *school lands* in Indian Territory.
7. Territorial courts could transfer cases to the new state courts.
8. The laws of Oklahoma Territory should apply to the entire state until the new legislature changed them.
9. The state would have five members in the House of Representatives. They would be elected when the constitution had approval.
10. The state would have certain legal limits:
 - a. It would allow different religions, but not marriages with more than one man and one woman;
 - b. The state would give title to unassigned public lands to the U.S. It would never tax any property owned by the U.S.;
 - c. The state would never place a higher tax on property of nonresidents than it had on property of residents;
 - d. The state would absorb the debts of Oklahoma Territory;
 - e. It would create a free, nonreligious public school system; and
 - f. Voting would not be restricted because of race, color, or previous servitude.
11. The constitution would be republican in form; it would not conflict in any way with the U.S. Constitution or the Declaration of Independence.

Voters passed the Oklahoma Enabling Act on November 6, 1906.

Also on November 6, the public elected delegates for the Constitutional Convention. Of the 112 delegates, one was Independent, twelve were Republicans, and ninety-nine were Democrats. Quite a few were Indian or had Indian heritage. None was African-American.

What was the African-American *migration*? The Indians who moved west in the early part of the nineteenth *century* did so to escape oppression. Years later, another minority moved to the twin territories with similar hopes. They came especially from the South.

Mrs. Mary Brown Williamson came from Tennessee. A black woman, she moved with her family and several others in 1892. She was living in Kingfisher during the 1930s when she recorded her story. It is in the Indian-Pioneer Papers at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Mrs. Williamson said:

We did not have to leave Memphis, Tennessee, but it was our desire. There was so much mobbing going on we wanted to get where it was a free country, so we would not be afraid for our lives....

Major newspapers took note of this change. For instance, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* reported from Newport, Arkansas, on March 30, 1890:

A group of Negroes, of all ages and sexes, passed through this town today, bound for Oklahoma. They all come from Crittendon County and are in *destitute* condition. They do not blame the people of the county they came from but say they hope to better their condition in Oklahoma, the “land of the Negro.”

The *Oklahoma Guide* in Guthrie ran an article on April 11, 1901, about the Colored Immigration Bureau and its view of the region. This report and others like it boosted the hopes of many African-Americans. It said in part:

The moral, financial and political conditions of the colored people in the territory is very good, the financial condition of the Oklahoma Negro is better than or equal to any state in the union taken as a whole, because nearly all own their own land.

Do You Know?

The Port of Catoosa, just north of Tulsa, is the nation's largest inland port.

The colored farmers are doing excellently, they have made good crops almost every year since '94, and have a good market for all their produce, cattle, hogs, etc....If the colored people of the United States wish to better their moral, political, social, or the natural conditions, and to live where they can be free to enjoy the rights as American citizens, and have no bosses, and rear their children as American citizens and not subjects and tools of others, they ought to prepare and move to Oklahoma Territory....

What did blacks do in Oklahoma? Several blacks won political office. Green I. Currin was the first. Kingfisher County elected him to the initial Territorial Legislature in 1890. Currin introduced the first civil rights bill, House Bill 119, in Oklahoma. One vote defeated it.

Early on, African-Americans organized to fight for their rights. They formed the Equal Rights Association, the Suffrage League, and the Negro Press Association. They also formed the Afro-American League, the Negro Protective League, and the State Anti-Lynch Law Bureau, all by 1906.

In fact, the Equal Rights Association of Kingfisher County asked Congress to use the Enabling Act to protect equality of citizens.

... [We ask] that Oklahoma be not admitted as a State of this union without some very [strict rules] against class legislation.

Our deadly foes are now busy educating their children to hate us and to believe that we are low, degraded, and vicious because our skins are dark. Nor do they make any exception of those of us whom they have made about as white as themselves, their eyes many times blue and their hair straight....

The last sentence above refers to a social standard of the time: Even blacks who had white ancestors, and might “pass” for white, were still legally black.

The Constitutional Convention met at Guthrie on November 20, 1906. Members chose William H. Murray to *preside* because of his superior knowledge of constitutional law. Over time, Murray turned into a controversial figure for his words and actions. For example, in his inaugural address, he said:

We should adopt a provision prohibiting the mixed marriages

of Negroes with other races in this State, and provide for separate schools and give the Legislature power to separate them in waiting rooms and on passenger coaches, and all other institutions in the State. ... He must be taught in the line of his own sphere, as porters, bootblacks and barbers and many lines of agriculture, horticulture and mechanics in which he is [a skilled person], but it is an entirely false notion that the Negroes can rise to the equal of a white man in the professions or become an equal citizen to grapple with public questions. At the same time let us provide in the constitution that he shall have equal rights before the Courts of the country....

Under Murray's leadership, the constitution separated the races in its public schools. The document declared:

Separate schools for white and colored children with like accommodation shall be provided by the Legislature and impartially maintained. The term "colored children," as used in this section, shall [mean] children of African descent. The term "white children" shall include all other children.

This definition of "white children" was especially important. *Numerous* members of the convention, and many citizens, were Indians.

The public approved the state constitution with a three-fourths majority.

What were provisions of the state constitution? The state constitution provided:

1. The basic elements contained in most state constitutions:
 - a. A bill of rights
 - b. Legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government
 - c. A two-house (bicameral) legislature
 - d. Four-year terms for the governor and other executive officers
2. Authority to the government to go into business on its own account
3. A Corporation Commission
4. All major state posts and judicial offices to be elective
5. Initiative and Referendum
6. A system of primary elections
7. A Department of Labor
8. A Board of Agriculture

Do You Know?

The Pensacola Dam, built in 1940, is still the World's Longest Multiple Arch Dam. At 6,565 feet in length, the dam is located on the south shores of Grand Lake O' the Cherokees between Langley and Disney.

9. A Department of Charities and Corrections
10. Prohibition of Liquor (voted on separately)
11. Boundaries and county seats for 75 of the 77 counties
12. Separate schools for white and “colored” children.

On September 17, 1907, the voters approved the constitution by a vote of 180,333 to 73,059. Voters also elected state officials at the same time. If the President of the United States approved the constitution, the elected officials would take office on Statehood Day.

What are “Jim Crow” laws? President Roosevelt wanted the Oklahoma constitution to leave out “Jim Crow” laws. They discriminated against African-Americans. For years, these laws weighed heavily on the minds of ordinary people as well as on the minds of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court had allowed “*Jim Crowism*” in 1896, when it heard the case of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. It dealt with a Louisiana statute making it a crime for African-American passengers to ride in railway cars reserved for whites. Police had arrested Mr. Plessy, who was one-eighth black and seven-eighths white, for breaking the law. The Supreme Court decided in favor of the law, as long as the areas for minorities were “separate but equal.”

Because of this decision, Roosevelt believed the Oklahoma constitution met legal requirements. He felt that, legally, he had to sign it. Jim Crow laws would still be affecting the courts and everyday life when the state reached its fiftieth anniversary.

What progressive ideas were included in the Oklahoma Constitution? Aside from the Jim Crow laws, people in 1907 thought the Constitution showed progress. It legalized an eight-hour workday for government employees and miners. It included child labor laws and requirements for schooling. It let women vote in school elections. (Total voting rights had been considered but defeated at the last minute.)

It even allowed for Initiative and Referendum, which seemed radical to some. It meant 8 percent of Oklahoma’s voters could use petitions to initiate, or start, a law. Fifteen percent could initiate an amendment. Just 5 percent could call for a *referendum* (a public vote) on any act of the legislature.

What happened on Statehood Day? On November 16, 1907, thousands gathered in Guthrie. In Washington, D.C., at 10:16 a.m., President Roosevelt signed a *proclamation* and declared, “Oklahoma

is a state.” As soon as the Oklahomans there telegraphed the news to Guthrie, the people shouted in celebration. Then Governor Haskell and other officials took their oaths of office on a wooden platform outside the library.

To symbolize the union of the twin territories, there was a mock wedding. A woman posed as Indian Territory and a man posed as Oklahoma Territory. A statue of this wedding stands in front of the library, now a historical museum.

There were mixed emotions, of course, over statehood. Saloon owners disliked the prohibition on alcohol. Railroad executives disliked the Corporation Commission. Blacks despised the Jim Crow laws and Indians felt uneasy about their own standing. The strong Democratic victory in the elections disappointed the Republicans.

At the same time, tens of thousands of citizens were joyful. They looked forward to prosperity and self-government. Rather than being political orphans, they were now citizens of Oklahoma, the forty-sixth state in the Union.

Who was Kate Barnard? The young state of Oklahoma had several contradictions. In a nation where Native Americans had been scorned and segregated for decades, Indians and whites served in the same legislature, and both were called “white.” An African-American man served in a color-conscious lawmaking body. At a time when women were denied the right to vote because of their sex, men elected Kate Barnard as the state’s first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections.

Called “Kate” by virtually everyone who ever met her, Barnard was a woman of enormous accomplishment. She was largely responsible for the child labor laws and education requirements in the Oklahoma constitution. In fact, England’s Ambassador Bryce called the constitution the “finest document of human liberty written since the Declaration of Independence.” He gave much credit for that to Kate.

The first woman to be elected to an Oklahoma state office, Kate was responsible for changes in the care of the mentally ill and for requiring sanitary conditions in jails. She was also solely responsible for the care of the state’s orphans.

Who was the first Oklahoma state governor? The state’s first governor, Charles N. Haskell, had worked in education. Fatherless since age three, he was reared by a school teacher and the teacher’s wife. At seventeen, Haskell was a certified teacher himself. At twenty-eight, he



Kate Barnard.
Oklahoma Historical Society

was a widower with three children. Later he married Lillian Elizabeth Gallup. By the time he moved to Muskogee in 1901, Haskell was practicing law. He had also operated railroad and telephone plant construction businesses. In March 1907, Haskell became the publisher of the *New State Tribune*.

Haskell's first official act as governor of the State of Oklahoma was to prevent Standard Oil Company from connecting a pipeline from Bartlesville into Kansas. He sent a wire to the Deputy County Attorney of Washington County. Then he sent the militia to *enforce* the order. Haskell's action gave the state time to make regulations for the pipeline industry before many pipelines entered the state.

His administration built the State Penitentiary at McAlester. The brickyard was made first, and then prisoners began making bricks and used them to build their own prison.

What was the Grandfather Clause? The Constitutional Convention and the first legislature had *established* Jim Crow laws. The second legislature added the Grandfather Clause. This was a condition in the constitution which based a man's right to vote on whether his father and grandfather could vote. When Republicans won three of the five congressional seats from Oklahoma, Democrats named African-American voters as the reason. So they prepared a bill requiring voters to pass a literacy test. The only people exempt from the test were those whose ancestors were eligible to vote on January 1, 1866. Few African-Americans were eligible to vote on that date. The Grandfather Clause made their descendants ineligible, too.

How was the State Capital changed from Guthrie to Oklahoma City? Haskell's administration is most famous for moving the state capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City. The location of the capital had been in dispute a long time. In fact, on the night of the removal, people were watching — to prevent it.

The *controversy* began with the Organic Act, which approved Territorial government in 1890. It named Guthrie as the meeting place of the first legislature. However, the Act also stated that the lawmaking body and the governor should name a permanent location as soon as they found it necessary.

Some members of the Constitutional Convention attempted to *incorporate* the capital location in the constitution. Other members argued against it, and the proposal was dropped. Several proposals were made for "New Jerusalem" (places where people could make a fresh start)

cities. When William H. Murray became Speaker of the House, he proposed that the state condemn or purchase a neutral site for the capital. He suggested a city be built around the capital, to be paid for by sales of lots and with state-owned utilities and public services. Different groups discussed his idea at various times but took no solid action on it.

Dennis T. Flynn, Guthrie's first postmaster, was elected as congressional delegate. He saw to it that bills for funding included conditions to prevent removing the capital from Guthrie. Such conditions were attached in 1892, 1894, and 1898. In 1900, Congress passed a bill preventing the Territorial legislature from paying for a permanent capitol building. Then in 1906, Bird McGuire of Pawnee was a delegate to Congress. He attached a provision to the Enabling Act naming Guthrie as temporary state capital until 1913.

There were bills suggesting *numerous* cities as the permanent capital, but they failed. Finally, the state scheduled an election for June 14, 1910, to name the capital site.

Choices were Oklahoma City, Guthrie, and Shawnee. Citizens were to vote on whether they wanted a permanent location named and, if so, what it should be. This election did not specify a "start" date for the location. The public, though, believed the permanent site would become effective in 1913, according to McGuire's attachment to the Enabling Act.

Before the governor signed the *proclamation* about the election, he changed the date from Tuesday, June 14, to Saturday, June 11. This meant announcing the results on a Sunday, when business offices were closed.

Guthrie ran ads with pictures of the attractive office building its citizens had erected, captioned "temporary capitol building." The ad advised people to vote against the bill on June 11 and save their tax money.



Secretary of State Bill Cross and Governor Charles Haskell at the new Governor's Office in the Lee-Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City after the State Capital was moved from Guthrie.
Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma City launched a *vigorous* campaign funded by businesses and organizations there. They advertised the growth and progress the area had made since statehood.

Governor Haskell went home to Muskogee to cast his vote. He was going back to Guthrie when results of the election caught up with him at Tulsa. Of the 135,000 votes counted, almost 100,000 were for Oklahoma City. Haskell arranged for a special train to Oklahoma City. He told his secretary, W. B. Anthony, to meet him there with Secretary of State Bill Cross and the state seal.

The governor had help from his chief clerk, Paul Nesbitt, and two other employees, Earl Keys and Porter Spaulding. Apparently, they removed the state seal and the state recording book from the vault and carried them out of the building, right through a watchful crowd of self-appointed “guards.” They hid these symbols of authority in a bundle of laundry which Anthony claimed to have left in the governor’s office earlier.

Here, the story becomes unclear. Several legends surround the transporting of the seal to Oklahoma City. Some say it went in a limousine that was waiting outside the Guthrie office building. Others say an African-American man, riding a mule, carried it into the city. Still others claim it went by train. No real records were kept on the subject, for obvious reasons.

Somehow, the seal arrived in Oklahoma City in the early hours of Sunday morning, almost at the same time as the arrival of the governor’s train from Tulsa. As soon as Governor Haskell booked a room at the Lee-Huckins Hotel, he proclaimed Oklahoma City the official state capital. The Lee-Huckins Hotel

became the temporary state capitol in the city.

Citizens expressed shock at this immediate removal of the state office. Certain officials stayed in Guthrie until the question was settled more securely. Lawsuits were filed. On November 15, the State Supreme Court ruled that the petition for election had contained a fatal error. It had not begun with the phrase, “Shall it be adopted.” The election, therefore, was void.

The governor called a special session of the legislature to meet at the Lee-Huckins Hotel on November 28. He appealed to the lawmakers



**Governor
Charles Haskell**
*Oklahoma Historical
Society*

in the name of the people, pointing out that they had made their wishes known through a public election. The legislature ratified Oklahoma City as the permanent capital on December 16, 1910, after a twenty-year fight for relocation.

What kind of governor was Charles Haskell? Haskell was a forceful governor, called heavy-handed by some, a strong leader by others. Whatever else he might have been, however, he was daring, and luck seemed to ride with him.

The federal government indicted (formally accused) him in 1909 as president of two companies that had invested in Creek lands. Creek agreements allowed persons with rights of occupancy to purchase one business lot and one residence lot at half their appraised value. Companies were using “dummy” purchasers to buy a great deal of property for half its real value. They paid the dummy purchasers just to occupy the lots that the companies wanted to buy.

The case was widely publicized because of the Haskell’s involvement, but it was delayed in court until September 27, 1910. By that time, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals had handed down the *Lonabaugh Decision*, which limited prosecutors’ time for gathering evidence. This voided most of the evidence in Haskell’s case, and the court dismissed the suit.

After his term ended, the governor returned to Muskogee. He was active in state politics for awhile. He moved to New York in 1917 to organize a small oil company. By 1924, he had organized several companies and had become a millionaire. His luck ran out in the business world, however, and he lost his fortune before the Great Depression. He *subsequently* went to Mexico where he promoted a toll road from the U.S. to Mexico City. That road and his work spawned the tourist business which developed in Mexico during the 1930s.

How did oil fields spring up in Oklahoma? While politicians worried about moving the state capital, oil producers were worrying about moving the state’s oil. The oil industry moved into the state at the turn of the century. In 1905, the famous Glenn Pool was discovered on the Ida Glenn farm, some ten miles south of Tulsa. Bob Galbreath and Frank Chesley drilled the first three wells there. The first, at a depth of 1,481 feet, produced eighty-five barrels per day. The second well, nearby, produced seven hundred barrels per day. The third, also close by, produced two thousand barrels a day. Soon there were 125 wells in the area, producing 55,000 barrels of oil daily. Galbreath and Chesley owned twenty-

four of them.

The greatest problem of the big producers was transportation. While oil from other areas was bringing more than \$2 a barrel, prices at Glenn Pool ranged from twenty-five cents to forty cents per barrel. Glenn Pool had no pipelines. Many large producers, then, built storage tanks to hold their petroleum. Small wildcatters (independent oil producers), however, had little time or money and sold their oil for any price they could

get. At an average drilling cost of \$5,000 per well, a producer had to sell a lot of 45-cent oil to recover his expenses.

By statehood, the first pipelines were running. In October, 1907, the first Glenn Pool oil reached the refineries in Port Arthur, Texas. The Glenn Pool brought several large companies into Oklahoma, such as the Texas Company (Texaco), Gulf Oil Company, and Standard Oil of New Jersey. The state had also experienced enough problems with the oil industry so that it declined to try to make enough laws to handle the situation. Instead, the state constitution created the Corporation Commission to govern the industry.

Boom towns sprang up in every oil field. Where a small village, or no town at all, had existed before, suddenly thousands of people moved in. There were speculators and investors, as well as small business people who followed the oil booms, supplying customers with products and services. There were drift-

ers following the fields, looking for work or excitement. Others were gamblers, hoping to win money in a game, or confidence artists (dishonest persons) looking for “pigeons” (someone to steal from). These elements often clashed, resulting in fights and sometimes in deaths.

A boom could last a long time or less than a year. When a field was drilled out, the drillers left, and so did everyone else. The boom towns soon turned into ghost towns or shrank back to villages. Kiefer, Cushing, and Okemah were such boom towns.

The Oklahoma oil fields were still booming when the United States declared war on Germany in 1917. During World War I, oil was one of the state’s major contributions to the war effort.

Who were the first U.S. senators and representatives from Oklahoma? The first U.S. senators from Oklahoma were Robert L. Owen



**Governor
Lee Cruce**
*Oklahoma Historical
Society*

and Thomas P. Gore. Republican Bird McGuire and Democrats Scott Farris, Charles Carter, Elmer Fulton, and James Davenport were elected to the U.S. House. Because statehood did not come in a regular election year, the congressmen had to face re-election in 1908. McGuire, Farris, and Carter were re-elected. But the other two Democrats were replaced by Republicans: Davenport by Charles E. Creager and Fulton by Dick T. Morgan.

What kind of governor was Lee Cruce? The governor's race was also run in less than four years, and Haskell's term of office ended in January 1911. Lee Cruce of Ardmore succeeded him. Cruce, who believed in the "spoils" system of government, appointed many of his friends and relatives to office.

Cruce's first legislature, the state's third, created the Highway Department but failed to appropriate the funds necessary to run it. It also created the Supreme Court Commission, an agency to help the State Supreme Court handle all the lawsuits concerning mineral rights and titles to Indian lands which had arisen from the oil boom.

The third legislature created a State Board of Education. Cruce appointed the board members but later felt dissatisfied with their work. He removed several and named others for appointment.

Some who were removed sought a court order to overturn the removal, denying that the governor had such power. The court order did not issue an order, but Governor Cruce called a special session of the legislature to settle the matter. The legislature refused to confirm appointments of anyone involved in the *controversy* and asked the governor for new appointments.

Unrest marred Cruce's term of office. The governor used the militia to *enforce* the law several times. On April 14, 1914, he declared martial law to prevent a horse race from taking place at the Tulsa Jockey Club's annual racing meet. Four times in 1912 and 1913 he used the militia to stop prizefights in McAlester, Dewey, Sapulpa, and Oklahoma City.

Controversy grew, and the fourth legislature launched an *extensive* investigation of many state officials. The state held its first impeachment proceedings when State Auditor Leo Meyer, Insurance Commissioner Perry Ballard, and State Printer Giles Ferris were charged with crimes against the state. Meyer and Ballard resigned. Ferris was convicted of approving illegal claims against state funds and he was removed from office.

Because of these difficulties and mounting *dissension* between Cru-

Do You Know?

Tattoos, at one time, were illegal in Oklahoma.

ce and the Democratic legislators, there was talk of impeaching him. In fact, the motion to impeach was defeated by only one vote. The state abolished the Office of the State Printer and passed new election laws. Attorneys filed other impeachments but did not obtain convictions.

What did Governor Robert L. Williams accomplish? Such investigations of state officers continued into the term of Robert L. Williams, the state's third governor. Resigning as State Supreme Court Justice to take office, he dictated most of the bills passed by the fifth legislature and focused most of the executive powers of the state in his office. Wil-

liams managed to maintain peaceful control of the legislature.

During his term of office, Oklahoma created a new Highway Department. It abolished the Prison Board and the Board of Trustees for the hospitals for the insane.

The State Board of



Oklahoma's capitol building was completed in 1917 without the traditional dome on top, because of a lack of money. The dome was added in 2002.

Public Affairs replaced those two councils, and the governor appointed its members.

When was the Capitol Building built? Construction of the capitol began during Cruce's administration in June 1914 and finished in time for the legislature to meet in its new chambers during the 1917 session. Although the original plans for the capitol had included a dome, not enough money had been appropriated. The Legislature agreed to postpone adding it. For years many citizens felt that the dome should never be added and that its absence reflected the streamlined attitudes and ideas of Oklahomans. Others felt that the absence of the dome reflected a "second-class" attitude and that a dome would demonstrate that Oklahoma is a first-class state.

Years would pass before the capitol would get a dome. During the Frank Keating administration of the 1990s, construction on a dome was begun, and the dome was dedicated on November 16, 2002. Most fund-

ing was from private sources, but additional funds from the Legislature had to be used to pay the final costs.

What happened to the Grandfather Clause? The Grandfather Clause came under attack during Williams's administration. The U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional because the Fifteenth Amendment gave all male citizens the right to vote. The decision was handed down in the case of *Guinn vs. United States* in 1915. Federal grand juries indicted several election officials. They convicted the men and sent them to prison for enforcing the clause.

Williams finished his term in 1919. Soon after, the President appointed him as United States District Judge of Oklahoma's Eastern District. He served until 1937.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Trace the movement toward statehood. Include efforts for separate states and a single state.
2. Describe the *migration* of black people. Include:
 - reasons for moving;
 - E.P. McCabe;
 - Jim Crow laws; and
 - attempts at equal rights.
3. Describe the Sequoyah Convention's purpose. Include:
 - when it was held;
 - where it was held;
 - who was elected president; and
 - how the vice presidents were elected (name them and their tribes)
4. Why was the Oklahoma constitution considered *progressive*?
5. When is Statehood Day?
6. Who was President of the United States at that time?
7. Name the first three governors of Oklahoma. Who was first?
8. Discuss the removal of the capital from its first site to Oklahoma City. Include the role of Charles Haskell and the different legends about the removal.
9. What was the Green Corn Rebellion?
10. Tell about the problems and the growth of the oil industry.