

WAPANUCKA, CHOCTAW NATION, INDIAN TERRITORY

Date of 1896- OLD TOWN: Situated across Branch.

At this date Wapanucka had a population of about 350, It being a ~~Presbyter~~ Presbyterian Mission, there was only the one Church building, and what few Baptist and Methodist living here worshiped with the Presbyterians.

There being no school building at the time, the Presbyterian church was used for the Presbyterian Mission school during the 5 week days. All children of Town and community attending ~~xxxxxx~~ this school. Parents who were ~~an~~ able, paid tuition for their children. Those that were not able to pay, their children went free. *The few Indian Children's Tuition was paid by the Indian Agency*

The town consisted of the following business. United States Post Office, 2-Drug-stores-2 General merchandise stores, Barber-shop- Millinery Shop (Ladies hat & accessories) Black Smith shop-one cotton gin. At this time there was no bank and no rail-road. Banking was done in Denison, Texas. *all freight was hauled from Atoka & Caddo*

Later- About 1900 a branch of the Rock Island Rail-Road was built. *from Hallettsville to Columbus* The Camp site where the rail-road workers were located was on the creek just South of where the Repeater Station now stands.

When the track was being laid through the Town near the Presbyterian Church where school was in session, the school was turned out for the pupils to watch the laying of the track. Which was a RED-Letter for the school.

I was one of those pupils

I might say here that the Presbyterian church was located just East of the track and East of where Mr. Donnie Young now lives. And across the branch from the business part of town.

Went Down
When the Rail-road was finished, the Depot was located where Mrs. Nola Musgraves now lives. It was across the branch North of Old Town and out in the Country, where our town is now located, was then a Cotton field.

The business people realized to expand, they would have to move near the Depot and where they would have better and more room for building. *a better town*

In 1902 the present Town-site was surveyed and laid off covering 42,500 acres of land. J.T. Payne Surveyor. June 4, 1902. And approved July 26, 1902 by DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. Signed by Thomas Ryan, Acting Secretary.

from 1902-1929
Wapanucka grew rapidly the next two years, had large mercantile establishments in all lines. and other businesses as follows. Three Churches Three Banks, First National Bank, Peoples National Bank, and Banking & Trust Co.

Three cotton gins (2 square bales and 1-Round bale) Lumber mills near by. Forty brick & stone business buildings and other frame buildings. which consisted of the following business. Printing Press (Wapanucka Press a weekly paper) Bottling works, Ice house- 2 butcher shops- Dye Plant- Picture Show- 2 Drug Stores- Bakery- 3 Ice Cream parlors- & Confectionery- Jewellery Store- Millinery Shop- 3 large General Mdse. stores, 6 Grocery Stores