

A HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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ing. He is one of the foremost merchants of the place, having a large and well-stocked store, and is now president of the Blue Jacket State Bank, of which he was one of the founders and the first vice-president. In his political affiliations he is a straightforward Republican, and is now filling the office of police judge.

Mr. Wilson has been twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth A. Winscott, was a daughter of Jesse Winscott, of Fulton, Callaway county, Missouri. At her death she left eight children, namely: Laura, wife of H. Sington, of Checotah, Oklahoma; William J., who married Lizzie Davis; Susan, wife of L. K. Haggard; C. T., who married Grace Howell; James W., who married Ora Evans; John E., who married Fay Adamson; Jessie, who married R. C. Jenkins; and Lizzie, who is the wife of G. G. Halkumb. Mr. Wilson married for his second wife Martha E. Countryman who was born in 1837, near Maysville, Arkansas, a daughter of John M. Countryman, a Cherokee, who has spent the greater part of his life in Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have five children, namely: Elgin D., Martha E., Harry E., D. A., Jr., and Wade C. All of these children have taken their allotments near Blue Jacket.

EDWIN F. KORNS. A wide-awake man, full of vim and push, Edwin F. Korn, of Newkirk, has filled various public offices of trust and responsibility with characteristic ability, and is now serving most acceptably as postmaster of this city. He is likewise proprietor of the *Republican-News-Journal*, the Republican organ of the city and a weekly publication widely known throughout northern Oklahoma. He is a product of Ohio, his birth having occurred, June 10, 1854, at New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas county, which was the birthplace likewise of his father, Henry Korn. His paternal grandfather, Charles Korn, was an early settler of that part of Ohio, migrating there from Pennsylvania, where he and two of his brothers lived for several years. The grandfather raised a large family of children, in which there were seven sons, namely: Dan, Robert, Frank, James, William, Henry and

John. Henry Korn grew to man's estate in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and died in manhood's prime, in 1861, in Indiana, soon after enlisting in response to President Lincoln's first call for troops during the Civil war. He married Harriet Watkins, who was of English descent, a daughter of Henry Watkins, and they had one child, Edwin F., of this sketch. She survived him, marrying for her second husband Henry Binkley, and of that union two children were born, namely: Mrs. William Doyle, of Houston, Texas; and Charles Binkley, of Hastings, Iowa.

After the death of his father Edwin F. Korn lived with his paternal grandmother and his uncles at New Philadelphia, Ohio, where he gleaned his first knowledge of books, attending the city schools. While a mere lad, before entering his "teens," he began to know what it really meant to support one's self, finding work in a print shop in that river town. This labor added much of value to his book learnings, and from year to year he felt its practical advantage. He subsequently worked for awhile on the *Tuscarawas Advocate*, in that place, and then secured a position in a book and job office in Indianapolis, Indiana. Leaving there Mr. Korn next went to Champaign, Illinois, where for two years he was connected with the *Champaign Union*. Migrating from there to Glenwood, Iowa, he was employed for two years on the *Glenwood Opinion*, after which he purchased the *Malvern Leader*, which he published two years, when he sold out and moved to Kansas.

Locating in Phillipsburg, Kansas, he bought the *Phillipsburg Herald*, and was its owner and moving spirit for fourteen years. During that period the appointment of newspaper men to postmasterships became somewhat general, and President Harrison made Mr. Korn postmaster at Phillipsburg, a position which he resigned on coming to Oklahoma. During his connection with the *Herald* Mr. Korn had become acquainted with the handling of the United States mail by his appointment to the railway mail service, his appointment having been secured by Senator Ingalls during President Arthur's administration. When President Cleveland

succeeded President Arthur Mr. Korn's concluded that Republicans would not prove popular with the new administration and gracefully resigned.

In November, 1893, a few months after the opening of the Cherokee strip, Mr. Korn's located in Kay county, and for a year lived a rural life, being engaged in the, to him, novel occupation of farming. Having been so long schooled and steeped in journalistic work, the farm seemed too prosy a proposition, and, in 1894, he founded the *Kay County News*, with Jeremiah Johnson and Lincoln McKinlay. He consolidated the *Kildare Journal* and the *Republican* with the *Newkirk News*, and the consolidated three came out as the *Republican-News-Journal*, it being a chartered company, with Mr. Korn's as the principal stockholder. He was actively associated with its editorial department until his appointment, in 1904, as postmaster at Newkirk, succeeding Marshall Lambert, and still guides the policy of this paper. Mr. Korn's has been active in municipal affairs, having been a member of both the city council and the local school board, and the mayor of the city. He was appointed oil inspector under Governor Jenkins, and served in that capacity two years under Governor Ferguson.

On October 19, 1882, in Osceola, Iowa, Mr. Korn's married Ida M. Millard, who was born in that city May 3, 1860, a daughter of Rev. Alva H. and Achsa (Barstow) Millard, formerly residents of Ohio. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Korn's, namely: Harry M. and Nellie M.

Harry M. Korn's, a newspaper man, who has grown up in the *Republican-News Journal* office, was educated in the Newkirk High School, the old Presbyterian Academy, Lincoln College and at Park College in Parkville, Missouri. He has shown wonderful aptness for verse since an early age, and has written and published in Oklahoma papers many effusions that have attracted notice far beyond the confines of his state. One of the first to win recognition was written at the age of nineteen years, and an inquiry was received from the *New York Evening Times* regarding the Newkirk author. It was en-

titled "Those First Red Top Boots," and reads as follows:

Oft visions come of bygone days,
And childhood's pleasures come once more,
I see a Christmas tree, and then,
The home folk gathered as of yore,
And Lo the candle lights expose
Small red top boots with copper toes.

Since, down the rugged path of life,
Far better gifts my soul have thrilled,
Far better boots along the way
My wandering feet have oft times filled,
But none have gladdened me as those
Old red top boots with copper toes.

Recent political incidents fresh in the mind of the reading public called forth the following lines from his facile pen:

"BECAUSE."

Because Ben Tillman couldn't see
What harm, if any, there could be
Should he his bank account inflate,
By dealing in some real estate;
And sought to satisfy the whim—
Because of this, they're after him.

Because Foraker didn't know
That things have changed since years ago,
That he who worketh with the trust
Is looked upon with sheer disgust,
And sort of got out on a limb—
Because of this, they're after him.

Because Boss Haskell's path in life
Has ever been bestrewn with strife,
Because of judgments that arose
To ever trouble his repose;
Of actions sly and records dim—
Because of this, Hearst's after him.

Other selections have shown good effort on the part of this young verse maker, and mark him as a youth of brilliant promise in literary fields. His "Battin Bill," his "Last Chance" and other products of his pen, widely varying in sentiment, indicate the universe as his field.

The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Korn's, Nellie M. Korn's, is the wife of Rev. Ray P. Montgomery, of Walters, Oklahoma, an Ad-

vent minister. Mr. Edwin F. Korn's having taken his wife from a minister of the same religious faith has given his own daughter to the same creed.

JOSHUA L. ROBERSON. One of the "home runners" of Oklahoma, and a pioneer lawyer of Kay county, Joshua L. Roberson has established a fine legal business at Newkirk, and as an active participator in civic and political affairs has become one of the material builders of the county seat. A son of Alexander Roberson, he was born, July 3, 1855, in Jefferson county, Illinois, where he acquired his youthful education. His paternal grandfather Joshua Roberson, moved from Georgia, his native state, to Illinois in 1819, while it was yet under territorial control. He married Margaret Culwell in Tennessee, and among the children that they reared were Henry, Jasper, Ebert, John, Edward, Alexander, Salatha, Lucy, Delilah and Elizabeth.

Born in Jefferson county, Illinois, in 1831, Alexander Roberson resided there for a full half century. A soldier in an Illinois regiment during the Civil war, he served under General U. S. Grant, at the end of the war being mustered out at Bedloe's Island. A farmer by occupation, he moved, in 1880, to Wayne county, Iowa, where his death occurred in 1883. He married Melissa Lyle, was born in Hickman county, Kentucky, in 1830, and died on March 3, 1906, in Hayes county, Nebraska, leaving seven children, namely: Rev. James M., a minister in Longmont, Colorado; Joshua L., the subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of Samuel Bradford, of McDonough county, Illinois; Henry L., of Mountain View, Washington; Charles A., of Chanute, Kansas; Hiram, of Rochester, Washington; and Lovilla, wife of J. P. Sanders, of Glenville Nebraska.

A country youth brought up on a farm, Joshua L. Roberson was employed in tilling the soil and in teaching school in his native county until moving with the family to Wayne county, Iowa, in 1880. Reading law with W. F. Howell, of Corydon, Iowa, and at the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, he was there admitted to the bar in 1883, and the following year was admitted

at Alma, Iowa, before Judge William Gaslin, while in 1892 he was admitted to the supreme court of that state. Mr. Roberson was first admitted to practice in Oklahoma in March, 1894, before Judge Bierer, later to the supreme court of the Territory, to the state supreme court at statehood, and on November 16, 1907, was admitted to the district and circuit courts of the United States. On September 16, 1893, when the Cherokee strip was thrown open to settlement, Mr. Roberson came with team, wagon and law library ready for use, camped Saturday night on the Caskaskia, at the "Soldier's camp," spent the second night at Red Rock in the Ote Reserve, and on Monday drove into Perry. Failing to suit himself, he returned to Kay county, and on September 24th located in Newkirk. He had covered the ground from Hunnewell, Kansas, to this place, and on his arrival had but five dollars, his wagon and team. Trading his wagon and harness for a tent and twenty-five dollars in cash, he moved into his cloth house and office, pitching it on the public square. He subsequently moved it to lot eleven, block thirty-three, where he had a temporary home the first winter. Legal business came along promptly, his first case being one in the defense of a squatter on a Newkirk town lot. Replacing his tent with a frame building, Mr. Roberson occupied his original lot until 1897, when he purchased lot eighteen, in the same block, and fitted up a four-room office on Seventh street, where, in 1902, his two-story business house was erected, and where his office has since been maintained. Much practice before the land office was brought to him, as well as other legal business found on the civil and criminal calendar, and in such quantities as to liberally reward him for his services. Taking the Democratic side in political issues Mr. Roberson was appointed city attorney, and came within eleven votes of being elected probate judge in a Republican stronghold. He favored statehood from the first, was active in its support, and attended all Democratic congressional conventions, save one, up to statehood, and all conventions to select delegates to national Democratic conventions.

Mr. Roberson came to Oklahoma from Or-