

GREER COUNTY.

Because of an error of one degree in a survey made by United States government surveyors in 1852, which made the one hundredth meridian pass north through the confluence of the North Fork and Red rivers, Texas, the Lone Star state laid claim to the territory between these two rivers and its ownership was undisputed for forty years. From 1852 until 1870 the province of Greer was little more than a happy hunting ground for the Kiowas and Comanches, but in 1870 white men, in defiance of Indian hostility, began to filter into the interior in pursuit of the last remnants of the great herds of bison. About 1880 the cattlemen came over the border and the Kiowa, Comanche and buffalo moved westward. In August, 1886, the country was organized as a Texas county and christened with the name of Greer, in honor of the lieutenant-governor of Texas.

When congress passed the Organic Act in 1890 organizing the Territory of Oklahoma, it authorized proceedings against Texas for the possession of Greer County, and in March, 1896, the United States supreme court decided the land belonged to the Territory of Oklahoma, opening the land to homestead entry in 1897. A flood of immigrants came up from Texas and one of the last great American frontiers was no more. Greer County has undergone three major surgical operations, having the Jackson County appendage and the Beckham County wing severed by the Constitutional Convention in 1907 and Harmon County lopped off in 1910. Fertile lands and a comparatively level surface make the county ideal for agricultural purposes, three lines of railroad, the Wichita Falls & Northwestern, the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific furnish excellent transportation facilities, and twelve hundred miles of highways reach all the remoter sections of the county and bring them within easy reach of the railways and the markets. More than six hundred miles of telephone lines make communication between all parts of the county relatively easy. As Oklahoma counties go, Greer is not a large county, its area in acres being four hundred and twelve thousand, one hundred and sixty, and its population at the time of the federal census in 1920, fifteen thousand, six hundred and sixty. Outside of the county seat, Mangum, there is practically no manufacturing of any description.

WARREN GILBERT McHale was born in Greer County in 22 Jan. 1898. Parents: Walter Scott & Bessie McHale who left Greer County to file on land in Housford City, Texas in 1899 to move there in late 1900 after Viola Craig McHale was born Feb. 12, 1900, in Stephens City, Texas

557