



OkieLegacy



Garfield County - Oklahoma

Place Names Since 1893 - 1982

[Info from the Garfield County, Oklahoma, Vol. I history book, pg 16-17]

Like every community in every state place names come and go. Town names, landmarks, road junctions, railroad sidings had a real purpose prior to the days of the automobile.

Garfield County in Northwest Oklahoma was first known by a simple little letter "O" - the permanent name was chosen by the residents, on November 6, 1894, when O County became Garfield County, in honor of President James A. Garfield.

If you look at rural life today, you will find that it has changed - a small store and post office at intersections every three or four miles is not needed today.

According to the Garfield County Historical Book, Vol. I, of the 67 names in the following list, only 19 may be familiar to the current generation.

The 48 some names exist only on lists as "ghost towns" or landmarks once used in the Garfield County area.

Barr -- was for a time in Sec. 3, Twp. 20N, R8W, 5 miles South of Drummond. A post office, named for the postmaster, Fred Barr, existed from Sept. 1, 1899, to Nov. 15, 1906.

Beardie -- just north of Covington, was in Twp. 21N, R4W, and was also named for the postmaster, John W. Beardie. It was in service Nov. 20, 1896, until April 25, 1898.

Billings Junction -- was in Twp. 24N, R7W.

Bison -- south of Enid on Highway 81, was named for nearby Buffalo Springs, a camp site used by cattle herders, Indians, stage coach drivers and others. Bison is in Sec. 24, Twp. 20N, R7W. A post office was started Aug. 31, 1901.

Blanton -- not a post office, was in Sec. 34, Twp. 23N, R7W.

Bloomer -- Sec. 15, Twp. 22N, R3W, was a post office from Nov. 6, 1893, to Oct. 31, 1901, and was named for James F. Bloomer, the postmaster. It was 5 miles southeast of Garber.

Breckinridge -- Now mostly a residential community, but at one time had several businesses. It was named for the president of the Denver, Enid and Gulf Railway, Breckinridge Jones. In Sec. 28, Twp. 23N, R5W, it had a post office from June 15, 1901, to Nov. 22, 1963.

Buckles -- was named for the editor of the Enid Eagle at that time, J. A. Buckles. Six miles northwest of Garber in Twp. 23N, R4W, it had a post office from Sept. 14, 1898, to Feb. 28, 1901.

Carrier -- was named for a merchant, Solomon Carrier. The post office was started in 1897.

Chamas -- was in Sec. 21, Twp. 24N, R3W.

Clark -- was in Sec. 15, Twp. 23N, R3W.

Coldwater -- existed for brief time near the site of Hillsdale, a post office 1894-1895.

Covington -- started as TRIPP. The name was changed in 1903 for John Coveington who helped area farmers raise money for platting a new townsite when the Frisco Railroad built through the area.

Delnorte -- was in southwest Garfield Co., post office from 1896 to 1901.

Dilley -- northeast of Covington, was a post office 1895-1905, named for the relatives back in Missouri of the husband of the postmistress, Cora Houghland.

Douglas -- first called Onyx, was changed in 1903, honoring Douglas Frantz, whose father Edmund Frantz had promoted the building of the Santa Fe Railroad between Enid and Guthrie. It is in Sec. 30 & 31, Twp. 21 N, R4W.

Drummond -- Sec. 15, Twp. 21N, R8W, was named for Harry Drummond of the Blackwell, Enid and Southwestern Railroad Co. A post office was started in 1901.

Elgin -- was a post office 10 miles southeast of Covington, 1894-1897, named for a local farmer, W. D. Elgin.

Ellis -- was a place name in Sec. 2, Twp. 23N, R5W.

Enid -- Twp. 22N, R6W, had a post office before the town was established. The townsite had been platted and named as county seat before the Sept. 16, 1893, land run. The post office started Aug. 25, 1893. Enid was named for the heroine of Tennyson's "Idylls of the King," though a number of other stories exist about its naming. It is the largest city in northwest Oklahoma.

Etna -- was a place name for a time in Sec. 20, Twp. 22N, R5W.

Fairmont -- was first called Luella, the name changed in 1902, probably honoring the school of that name in Wichita, Kans. It is in Sec. 26, Twp. 22N, R5W.

Fannie -- Twp. 22N, R4W, southwest of Garber, was named for Fannie Porter, wife of the first postmaster. It had a post office from 1893 to 1898.

Fritz -- was 2 miles northeast of Drummond, then moved and was named Imo.

Garber -- started as McCardie, March 12, 1894, but 38 days later, April 20, the name was changed to Garber, honoring Martin Garber. It is in Sec. 25 & 26, Twp. 23N, R4W.

Gladie -- was a post office, 1902-1904, southeast of Garber, named for Gladys Ellis, daughter of the postmaster. Spelling of her name was changed by the P. O. Dept. Gladie was in Sec. 22, Twp. 21N, R3W.

Glenella -- was in Sec. 10, Twp. 22N, R8W.

Goff -- was its post office name, 1899-1903, but the first name used by residents was Ladysmith, for the community in Natal besieged during the Boer War. In 1903 it was named Hayward. It was in Sec. 22, Twp. 21N, R3W.

Hayward -- in southeast Garfield Co, was first Ladysmith, then Goff, and in 1903 it was named for the townsite developer, Samuel Hayward. It was in Sec. 22, Twp. 21N, R3W. The post office was discontinued in 1963.

Highland -- in sec. 24, Twp.24N, R4W, north of Garber, was a post office from 1894 to 1906.

Hillsdale -- northwest of Enid, has had two post office names. From 1900 to 1905, Hillsdale; then for a year it was Coldwater when that office was discontinued, then it became Hillsdale again. It is in Sec. 7-18, Twp. 24N, R7W.

Hunter -- Sec 7-8, Twp. 24N, R4W, was named for the townsite owner, Charles Hunter. The town and post office were established in 1901.

Imo -- was named for Imogene Allen, daughter of a local family. It was 2 miles northeast of Drummond, then moved to another site southwest of Enid, a site which had been called Fritz, Sec. 29, Twp. 22N, R7W, a post office, 1895-1922.

Ituna -- was in Sec. 8, Twp 23N, R7W.

Jennie -- was named for Jennie Jones, wife of the postmaster, in 1894. It was in Sec. 25, Twp. 23N, R5W. In 1900 the name was changed to Cropper.

Jetmore -- Twp. 24N, R8W, was named for Frank Jett. It was a post office, 1896-1900.

Jonah -- was in Sec. 28, Twp.23N, R7W.

Kennedy -- was in Sec. 5, Twp. 22N, R6W.

Kremlin -- in Sec. 22, Twp. 24N, R6W, had a post office started in 1893. Though the name makes one think of Russia, the story is that a Rock Island Railroad official changed the name from Wild Horse, to the name of his Daughter's favorite saddle horse, Kremlin.

Ladysmith -- Sec. 22, Twp. 21N, R3W, was a local name for Goff, which later became Hayward.

Lahoma -- post office was started in 1894, the name is a diminutive of the Indian word which is the name of the state, Oklahoma, Choctaw for "red man." It is in Sec. 18, Twp. 22N, R8W.

Luella -- was named for Luella Riley, wife of the first postmaster. In 1902 the name was changed and the post office moved to fairmont. It was in Sec. 20, Twp. 22N, R4W.

McCardie -- is now Garber. The post office was started in 1894 and the name changed about a month later.

Maxwell -- Sec. 22, Twp. 22N, R3W, had a post office from 1894 to 1895. It was northeast of Covington, and was named for the fourth assistant postmaster general, Robert Maxwell.

North Enid -- had a post office from 1894 to 1923. It was the site the Rock Island railroad officials thought would be the county seat town, Sec. 29-32, twp. 23N, R6W.

Onyx -- in sec. 30-31, Twp. 21N, R4W, was named for a type of quartz rock in the area. A post office was started in 1894. In 1903 it became Douglas.

Pana -- was once 3 miles northwest of Hunter, in Sec. 1, Twp. 24N, R5W. It had a post

office from 1895 to 1902.

Pioneer -- is the name of a rural community and a school.

Potter -- didn't survive the years but did have a post office from 1895 to 1904, named for Lida Potter, the postmistress. It was in Sec. 26, twp. 20N, R3W.

Relief -- was a place name at one time, no location in the records.

Shaner -- was named for William Shaner, first postmaster. It was in Sec. 35, Twp.21N, R4W, and in business from 1894 to 1904.

Shea -- was in Sec. 18, Twp. 22N, R5W.

Sibley -- is listed, no location given.

Skeleton -- named for skeleton Creek, was a post office southeast of Enid from 1894 to 1904, in Sec. 21N, R5W.

Spencer, Stacy and Steen -- are all names listed in Garfield Co., location not given.

Tripp -- was named for a town in South Dakota. It was in Sec. 11, twp. 21N, R4W, and was soon renamed, Covington.

Vance Air Force Base -- at Enid was named for congressional Medal of honor winner, Major Robert L. Vance of Enid, who lost his life in World War II.

Waukomis -- sound somewhat Indian, but it was actually the despairing statement of an earlyday railroad official who missed the last train back to Enid and said, "*Walk home ... us*". It is in Sec. 24, twp. 21N, R7W, a growing town.

White -- was in twp. 22N, R8W, named for H. D. White, the postmaster. southwest of Garber, it was in business from 1894 to 1903.

Wilcox -- was in Sec. 12, twp.22N, R8W, west of Enid. Named for George Wilcox, it was a post office from 1895 to 1903.

Wildhorse -- was a place name at one time in the county, site now Kremlin.

Wildwood -- sec. 6, twp. 20, R8W, was a coined word, using part of the postmaster's name, James Wiley, and the word "wood" cause of a nearby grove of trees. It was a post office east of Ames from 1894 to 1905.

Zangwill -- was once a post office west of Bison, named for an English author, Israel Zangwill. In Sec. 16-17, twp. 20N, R8W, it operated from 1897 to 1905.

Zybra -- in sec 18, twp. 20N, R5W, east of Bison, described in its name, a colloquial word used at that time, what was going on over the area. Zybra meant "*a moving settler!*" It was a post office from 1898 to 1903.