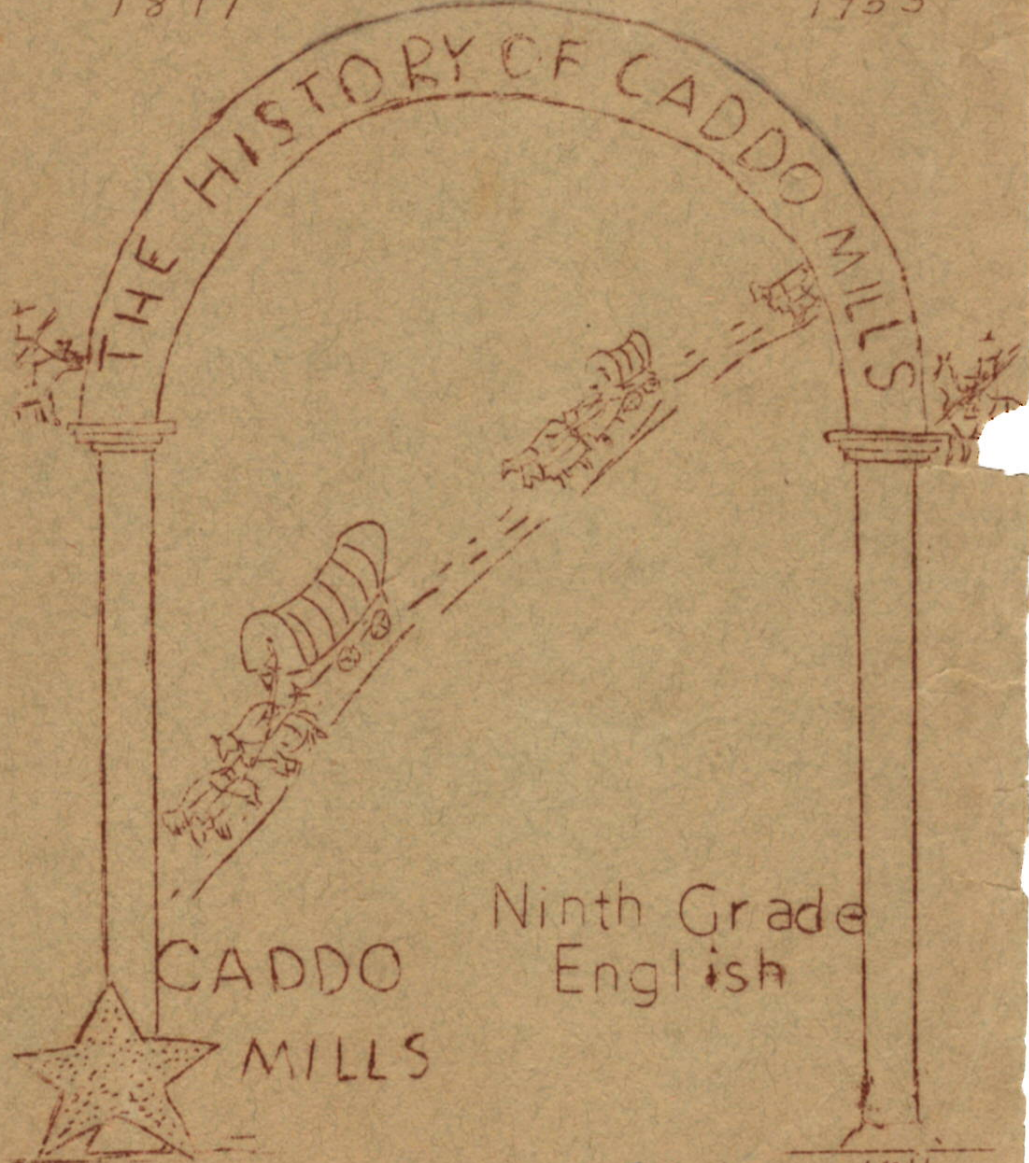


1877

Susan

1953



CADDO
MILLS

Ninth Grade
English

D.L.

- Kelly -

A HISTORY
OF
CADDO MILLS

BY

Bethea, Dwayne	Kelly, Tommy
Buck, Jimmy	Jordan, Jack
Buel, James	McCasland, Nolan
Causey, Joena	Nesbitt, Sarah
Douthit, James Ray	Payne, Jerry Gail
Eddins, Jerry Glenn	Riley, Mary
Galyean, Dwaine	Rose, Rachel
Gavin, Kay	Rousey, Linda Lou
Gideon, Jerry	Smith, Ida Joyce
Ingle, Bill	Taylor, Shirley
Johnston, Linda	Whits, Fred

Advisor: Mrs. Plenniken

PUBLISHERS

NINTH GRADE ENGLISH CLASS
1952-53

F O R E W O R D

When the ninth grade English class of 1952-1953 was selecting a project while studying a section in literature titled "Our Heritage from the Past," it decided a history of Gaddo Mills would be interesting and appropriate.

Gathering the information presented a problem. Since the class was limited both by time and means, records could not be looked up and delved into. Solution? The class divided into pairs and those groups were given instructions in making interviews and then sent to interview citizens in the community who could give information about early settlers, their homes, businesses, modes of transportation and communication, schools, and churches.

After all information was obtained, a committee was appointed by the class to compile and illustrate it in booklet form. The students have reported the stories as they were related to the interviewers to the best of their abilities.

The class is indebted to many citizens and wished to extend sincere appreciation for the willingness and patience with which each of the following and perhaps others have assisted in this project:

Mrs. Laura Bass Royce

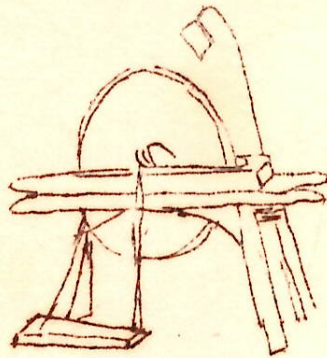
Mrs. J. R. Bass

Mrs. Welch

Mrs. Carrie Watson

Mrs. Mary Williams
Mrs. Pearl Foster
Mrs. R. L. Smith
Mr. Roy Johnson
Rev. Neyland Hester
Rev. Max Chappell
Mrs. J. H. Kuykendall
Mrs. Bud Meeks
Mrs. C. C. Bethea
Mrs. Bailey

Ninth Grade
English Class



A HISTORY

The town, Caddo Mills, is said to have begun when D. D. Cannedy opened the general merchandise store under the firm name, D. D. Cannedy and Son, in 1877. The town was located on Caddo Creek from which it took the "Caddo" part of its name. Tradition says that Caddo Creek got its name from the Caddo Indians who at one time had settlements on the creek. The "Mills" part of the name came from a mill owned by L. T. Johnston and Henry Klug located on the creek just west of the present site; thus the name "Caddo Mills." Williams Brothers also owned a store at this site.

In 1879 through the efforts of Mr. Cannedy a postoffice was granted the town and set up in his store.

Later the mill was moved to the site on which the gin now stands on the west side of town. The large yellow two-story house was known all over North Texas as the only place one could have corn and wheat ground at that time. Corn was the main crop and the town was known far and wide for its vast resources of corn. In

1885 one hundred carloads of grain were shipped from this town.

In 1884 the town was moved to the east side of the creek near the new mill site. In the same year the King Brothers put in a store. The Bass home was built at the end of Main Street in the same year. Other stores at this location were Bass and McAdams Hardware and Dr. Vain's Drug Store. During these days the Briscoes, Mattoxes, Boyles, and Clarks had to go to Jefferson for food and clothing which were shipped up Sabine River to that point. Those trips had to be made in wagons often pulled by oxen, the only means of transportation. Too, the mail was brought from Greenville by Bill Moore on horseback.

In December, 1885, Mr. and Mrs.



Harry Royce, Sr. came to Hunt County and became one of the pioneer families. During this same year, the Katy railroad from Greenville to Dallas was completed. Joe Bass sold the right-of-way for \$50 to \$125 per acre. Convicts were used as workers in building the railroad. On the day the first train came through Caddo Mills, the townspeople held a big celebration. One pioneer citizen recalled that on that day Frank and Jesse James rode through town on their way to Central City. The first railroad agent was Mr. Misenburg.

In 1886 the town plat was drawn on the Bass and Williams' farms by the Kincy Abstract Company of Greenville. Mr. Hines added the first cotton gin near the mill on the creek. When the railroad was completed, the town gradually moved to it. The only buildings now standing which were built then are the depot, section house, Jennings Hotel, the Lynn Boyle, J. E. Johnson, Wash Williams, and R. A. Anderson homes, The K. P. building being the oldest building in town.

The Masons had a lodge in Caddo Mills as early as 1884. The Order of the Eastern Star was organized June 7, 1888, and is

still active. The Caddo Mills Woodmen of the World had a band in 1898. The members were H. G. Stevenson, J. E. Johnson, W. C. Drake, J. R. Bass, W. C. Drake, Charlie Askins, Tom Anderson, J. D. Morrison, A. Fagg, Jack Williams, instructor, and A. B. Andrews; This band was known all over this part of Texas.

A sport in the early days was hunting. Wild turkey on Caddo Creek afforded fine hunting. Fishing also was good on the creek.

In 1889 the population of Caddo Mills was about 500. At the present it is about 510.

The only source of water in 1895 was wells and cisterns.

At this early date liquor was legally sold in Caddo Mills, but it was voted out about 1900.



Caddo Mills was once the home of the Van Cleave Telephone Company which extended in all directions to serve a wide area.

Capp Howard owned the second gin. Bethea Market opened in 1903. About this time the first automobiles came to town, owners of which were Lum Lee and Press Jones. Automobiles were sights and curiosities. Everybody rushed to the doors and windows to see them pass. Many people were afraid of them and declared they would never ride in them. They scared the teams, causing many run-aways. The automobile, in spite of objections, soon became a necessity. People could now go to Greenville for garden, farm, and general supplies in cars; whereas, they had previously had to go in buggies and wagons. Of course, the first car ran at a very slow speed, but it was a great improvement.



L. T. Johnston built a theater, the second story of which is now occupied by the Masonic Lodge.

The town almost burned up twice. In 1910 the west side of the town burned. Another disaster hit Caddo Mills in 1914 in the form of a tornado.

Entertainment for the early settlers consisted of picnics, singings, play parties, square dances, horseback riding, and later buggy riding. The square dances were given in homes mostly.

The first school was taught in a log house located about where the I.O.O.F. cemetery now is. The school was taught by Mrs. George Duncan. The second school was a log house near the creek, taught by Mrs. Arthur Anderson. A frame building was built about 1883 between the creek bridge and the small bridge on the east side of the creek. The opening of this building was celebrated by a big square dance

Edmond Dickerson was superintendent with two other teachers: Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Dudley Wade. Mrs. Juriah Dickson was the music teacher; Mrs. Bass and Mrs. Harry Royce, Sr. were two of her pupils.

The present school building was built in 1921-22, the corner stone having been laid December 21, 1921. The trustees at that time were: James R. Bass, W. C. Drake, J. A. Harper, E. L. Ingle, A. G. Bailey, J. B. Foster, and J. F. Newman.

In the early part of the century Caddo Mills had one of the best local newspapers for any town its size in Texas. It was called THE CADDO MILLS MONITOR.

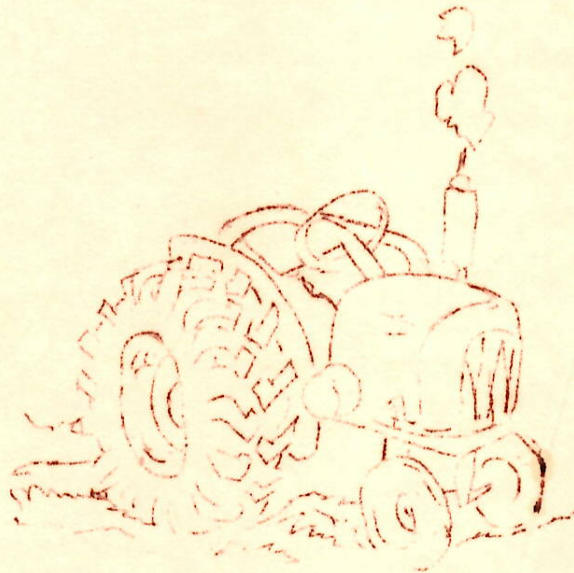
The first person buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery was Preacher Johnson.

Caddo Mills got electricity in 1916, natural gas in 1926, all-weather streets in 1923, and public water system in 1938. Shortly after the water system was installed, a volunteer fire department was organized.

The dates of the openings of other businesses which are still in operation in Caddo Mills are: The State National Bank,

1918; the Gulf Service Station, 1928; Payne's Store, 1932; Bethea's Grocery was first built in 1903, burned in 1913, rebuilt, and then remodeled in 1948; Fagg's Store, 1909; and McClain Pharmacy, 1949.

The first tractor in Caddo Mills was owned by Dock Lacy. It was a Farmall.



C H U R C H E S

The Methodist church in Caddo Mills was organized as a mission church on a wide circuit of churches in Hunt County in the fall of 1880.

The first regular minister was Rev. J. A. Stafford, and there were forty-seven members of the church. Part of Mrs. Stafford's first annual report is interesting; eight persons were received into the church that first year, three babies were baptized, \$3.60 was spent for Sunday School material, \$7.50 was given for foreign missions, \$2.50 was given for "domestic" missions, \$2.00 was paid for the bishop's salary, \$2.50 was given for conference collections, \$11 was raised for the poor, \$7.50 was paid on the presiding elder's salary of \$20, and \$41 was paid on the minister's salary of \$150.

The first building was completed in 1894 while Rev. E. S. Williams was minister. It was located on the site of the present R. E. Buchanan home, across from the city park. This building was destroyed by storm in 1908, and plans were started immediately for another building.

The building was erected on the present site and was completed in 1908 while Rev. C. W. Jacobs was minister. This building was enlarged twice during the next thirty years, and in 1949 a government hospital building was bought for additional education space. The new building would have been opened for use on Thursday evening, December 8, 1949, but fire destroyed it and the main building on Monday, December 5. Building committees were elected and an architect, James A. Russell of Alexander and Russell, Ltd., Dallas, prepared plans for a new building. Ground for the new church building was broken in a special ceremony on July 16, 1950, and construction started immediately.

The new building was completed in June, and it was formally opened for worship by Bishop W. C. Martin on July 29.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The First Christian Church has a history which dates back almost a century. The church came into existence about the time of the Civil War or shortly thereafter, and was known as Antioch, located about one mile east of the present site

of Caddo Mills.

After the Caddo Mills township was established, the membership decided that the church should move into town. For a while the congregation had services in the schoolhouse and the Baptist church.

The Christian Church has been on its present site for the past sixty-six years. Although this building was remodeled from time to time, it served the congregation until September, 1945, when it was destroyed by fire.

It is interesting to note, according to the informer, that a factor in the moving of the church into town was that bumble bees became so numerous and obnoxious that the people had to abandon the church.

The Caddo Mills Christian Church has met the spiritual needs of many people in this vicinity through the years.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Efforts were made to obtain information about the small Catholic church which serves as a place of worship for the Catholics in the community, but no one was able to give any definite in-

formation. The present priest according to one member is Father Bartolome del Santissimo who comes once a month to hold mass.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The great-grand father of the Briscoe descendants organized the first Baptist church in North East Texas at what is now known as "Pear Pin" or Briscoe's Schoolhouse near Rockwall in 1845. Later this same Rev. John Briscoe, a prominent pioneer Baptist minister, assisted in organizing the First Baptist Church in Greenville. In 1883 the only Baptist church in this community was at Elm Creek having been organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess Clark about one-half mile north of town, but the church was built over near the Elm Creek Cemetery. The Baptist people who lived around Caddo Mills belonged over there. On regular meeting days the whole family went in wagons and buggies on Saturday and Sunday. Rev. J. E.

Johnson was pastor there and Mr. F. P. C
Cannedy was church clerk.

On a church record, according to an
informer, it was found that on May 9,
1885, some local members of the Elm
Creek Church withdrew fellowship and
organized a church in Caddo Mills,
May 10, 1885, in the home of Mr. A. A.
Gary. Some of the charter members
were Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Gary, Mr. and
Mrs. J. R. Bass, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. D. J.
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bailey, Mrs.
Caroline Bain, Mrs. Sallie Stewart, and
Mrs. Mattie Cooper Taylor.

Some of the ministers who held
services at the school west of town on
Caddo Creek (no church house was there
then) were Rev. Petty, father of Mrs.
George Collins of Greenville. Records
show that Rev. J. E. Johnson was called
as pastor in October, 1885, and served
until 1890, when he resigned because of
bad health. In 1886 Mr. J. R. Bass, Sr.
donated the lot for the Baptist church.
The first church house was blown down,
but was rebuilt at once. The second
house was sold to Grandview school
district. The third one which now stands
on this lot was built in 1910, R. A.

Long, contractor. It was dedicated April 10, 1913. Dr. F. L. McConnell preached the dedication sermon. During Reverend Hulen Coffman's tenure as pastor of the church, October, 1919 to some time during 1927, the tabernacle was built. In the winter of 1952-53 during the tenure of Reverend Max Chappell the educational building was built.

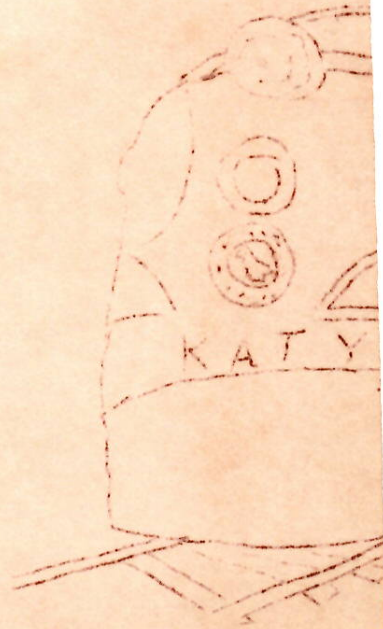
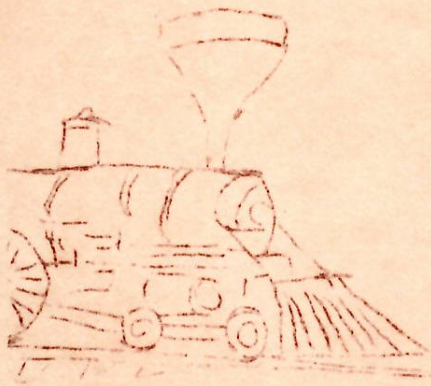
These early Baptist christians have left a glorious heritage. They have left the beloved church and spiritual heritage which shall serve as a beacon light to all generations.

P A R K

In 1952 Caddo Mills' Recreation Park was dedicated as Hanchey Park by Mrs. J. M. Hanchey and her sons, and the Lions Club of Caddo Mills in memory of Dr. J. M. Hanchey, who was a doctor here for many years.

CONCLUSION

Although it is possible and probable that many interesting facts about people and places have been omitted from these pages, limited time and sources of information have contributed to their omission. However, this brief survey could serve as a nucleus for a more comprehensive study of the history of the little city of Caddo Mills which holds many memories for many people.





-Gideon-