

**Oklahoma State Archives**  
200 Northeast 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
405-522-3579  
[www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/index.htm](http://www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/index.htm)

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

**Use Policies:**  
An appointment should be made so staff can assist.

**Cost for Photocopies:**  
Photocopies are \$.25. Microfilm copies are \$.30.

**Examples of Themes and Representative Collections:**

The Oklahoma-Texas Boundary Dispute, 1919-1923

The south bank of the Red River became the border of the United States in a treaty with Spain signed in 1819. This treaty did not give a precise definition of this boundary. This caused many problems after Texas became a state. The greatest troubles happened after oil was discovered in the riverbed in the Big Bend area in 1918. Indian tribes, prospectors and settlers on both sides of the river were often involved in violent incidents and legal actions. The governors of Oklahoma and Texas tried to resolve the dispute, but were unsuccessful. Oklahoma and Texas filed lawsuits. The boundary dispute was submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in October 1920. Much evidence was presented based on the history, physical geography, geology, plant ecology and hydrology of the Red River. You can research this case at the State Archives in the following collections: Attorney General Civil Case files, U.S. and Oklahoma Map Exhibits and Governors papers.

Kate Barnard (1875-1930)

Kate Barnard, was a prominent social reformer during Oklahoma's Progressive Era. As the first commissioner of Charities and Corrections, she investigated conditions at Lansing Prison in Kansas where Oklahoma prisoners were sent. She also investigated conditions at hospitals and orphanages. Known nationally, she has been compared to Jane Addams. Information Kate Barnard and her contributions can be found within the Julee Short Collection and the administrative papers of the Department of Charities and Corrections.

Land Run, 1889, 1893

One of the most popular subjects in Oklahoma history is the Land Runs. When a homesteader made his claim he reported to one of the twelve U.S. district land offices established in Oklahoma Territory. The collection of 1889 Homestead Registers contains specific information such as residences, names, dates, tracts of land, the number of acres, etc. These records are useful for tracing a family's arrival in the Territory. Also, the State Archives have photographs from the 1893 land run in the Cherokee Strip.

### Oklahoma Statehood, 1907

Many events led to Oklahoma statehood. The passage of the Organic Act on May 22, 1890 led the way for the formation of Oklahoma Territory. When the Dawes Commission completed its work, the Indian Territory was ready for statehood. At various times each Territory wanted to become a state, but the U.S. Congress did not approve this. For example, Indian leaders wanted their own Indian state to be named "Sequoyah." The Enabling Act of 1906 united both territories and paved the way for statehood. A constitutional convention was held to draft a state constitution. An election to ratify the constitution and select state and county officers was held on September 17, 1907. President Theodore Roosevelt accepted the constitution and Oklahoma became the 46<sup>th</sup> state on November 16, 1907. The State Archives has records on the Constitutional Convention, Territorial Governors and the Office of Governor.

### State Capital Removal

The location of Oklahoma's capital was a controversial topic throughout the territorial period and during early statehood. The Enabling Act of 1906 made Guthrie the capital of the new state until 1913. Attempts to move the capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City failed because the legislature and Guthrie residents did not approve. The state seal is a marker used to declare the capital location and officiate all state business. In 1910, the seal was "taken in the dead of night" to Oklahoma City. Governor Charles N. Haskell removed his office to Oklahoma City and state officials followed him. The controversy about the "stolen" seal led to legal proceedings involving the Oklahoma Supreme Court until the legislature passed a bill permanently locating the seat of government in Oklahoma City. The U.S. Supreme Court said the bill was valid, but the "stolen" seal remains a topic of interest today. You can research State Senate and House Bill files, records from the Office of Governor, and the records of the State Capitol Preservation Commission.

### State Capitol Construction

Oklahoma's state capitol has been domeless for over 80 years. Construction on the building began in 1915. The original capitol architects, the Layton and Smith company, planned a dome for the building, but when the capitol was completed in 1917, it was domeless due to a lack of money. Governors, state officials and the public have attempted to raise funds and construct a dome for the capitol. Past ideas have included creating additional office space, a fiberglass dome, or a revolving restaurant dome. Recently, Governor Frank Keating announced plans to construct a dome on the Oklahoma state capitol building. Funds from private sources will allow construction of the 155 ft. dome to begin in early 2001. The dome is expected to be finished by Statehood Day, November 16, 2002. You can research State Senate and House Bill files, records from the Office of Governor, and the records of the State Capitol Preservation Commission.

### 1930s New Deal programs

The Great Depression led the U.S. government to provide work for unemployed, take care of elderly Americans, and administer welfare. To do so President Franklin Roosevelt created many programs, which he called the New Deal. You can research the State Archives for records about New Deal programs that affected Oklahoma and the nation. There are administrative files and applications from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), documents from the state's Work Progress Administration (WPA), and photographs from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Also the files of the Office of Governor contain numerous materials.

### Tulsa Race Riot, 1921

From May 30 to June 1, 1921, 35 blocks of the black Greenwood district in Tulsa burned in what many regard as America's worst race riot. A black shoe shiner stepped on the shoe of a white girl who operated an elevator in the Drexel building. Exaggerated rumors about the incident led to violence. Homes, restaurants, groceries and medical offices were destroyed. It is estimated that as many as 200-300 blacks were killed and many of the survivors left the district. Governor James Robertson called out the National Guard and declared martial law. The alleged victim did not press charges. The Tulsa Race Riot Commission was created to conduct an official study to determine what actually happened. You can research Oklahoma Supreme Court cases, records from the Attorney General's Office, and Governor James Robertson's administrative papers.

### Women's Suffrage

Long before the Nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the struggle for women's rights occurred at the state level. Women worked, campaigned and demonstrated in the face of great political opposition. The Oklahoma Constitutional Convention in 1907 considered writing women's suffrage into the new constitution, but the issue failed at the last moment. In 1910 Oklahomans voted on an Initiative Petition seeking to give women the right to vote by simply eliminating the word "male" from the pertinent section of the state constitution. The measure was overwhelmingly defeated, but women working for it were not. Their demands for the basic democratic right to vote accelerated after World War I. In 1918, two years before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, Oklahoma voters approved a Legislative Referendum extending universal suffrage to women. In 1920 Governor Robertson called an Extraordinary Session of the Seventh Legislature, which passed a Joint Resolution ratifying the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on Women's Suffrage. You can research State Senate and House Bill files, and records from the Office of Governor.

### Prohibition

In 1907 Oklahomans voted to make the newly formed state dry. In 1933, as a result of a special election, beer containing no more than 3.2% alcohol was declared non-intoxicating and exempted from prohibition. Not until 1959 did Oklahomans repeal liquor prohibition and legalize the package sale of spirits of all kinds. Materials about Oklahoma prohibition can be found in the records of the Office of Governor, Attorney General, State Board of Public Affairs, and Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

### Oklahoma and World War II

Throughout America's participation in World War II, Oklahomans mobilized and contributed to the war effort in numerous ways including the production of food, munitions and aircraft; recycling scrap metal and rubber; growing victory gardens and using ration coupons; promoting bond drives and the Red Cross fund; increasing industrial employment for women; and providing military training. For information on World War II and Oklahoma's efforts you can research the records of the State War Council, Office of the Governor, and Office of War Information Photographs.

### Impeachment of John C. Walton and Henry S. Johnston

Governor John C. Walton's term was plagued with violence and uprisings throughout the state, most of which stemmed from his war on the Ku Klux Klan. Eventually Walton was impeached and convicted in 1923. Governor Henry S. Johnston faced impeachment charges when it was alleged that his confidential secretary, Mrs. O. O. Hammonds, had too much influence over Johnston's actions and policies. Charged with general incompetency Johnston was convicted in 1929. You may research administrative papers from the Office of Governor and State Legislature impeachment proceedings.

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Resources at the State Archives are available to the public. We house the records of state agencies and state officials. Those planning to visit the archives are encouraged to call ahead to find out what is available.