

C. B. Douglas

The History
of
Tulsa, Oklahoma

A CITY WITH A PERSONALITY

TOGETHER WITH

A glimpse down the corridors of the past into Old Indian Territory,
The Five Civilized Tribes, The Creek Nation, Tulsa
Recording District and Tulsa County

How Oklahoma was Created and Something
of the Builders of a Commonwealth

VOLUME III



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August, 1909, he arrived in Tulsa and was associated for a short time with a paving contracting firm. He later engaged in business as an employe of electrical contractors and on the 1st of January, 1913, he became associated with J. S. Pearce in the insurance business and in time their firm connections were extended to include Mr. Martin under the present style of Pearce, Porter & Martin. They have the general agency for the Aetna Life Insurance Company and the Aetna Casualty Insurance Company. They are also state agents for the Automobile Fire Insurance Company and are local agents for a dozen or more of the leading fire insurance companies of the country. They have built up a business of large and gratifying proportions and are familiar with every phase of insurance.

On the 10th of July, 1920, Mr. Porter was married to Miss Ethel Crosbie, daughter of John E. Crosbie, the president of the Central National Bank of Tulsa and one of the pioneers and big oil men of this city. Mr. Porter belongs to Delta Lodge, No. 425, A. F. & A. M., and has taken the degrees of York Rite Masonry. He likewise belongs to Akdar Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Tulsa and has membership with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is always a welcome visitor at the rooms of the Tulsa Petroleum Club, the Country Club and the Kiwanis Club, in all of which he holds membership. The Episcopal church numbers him among its communicants and he is a loyal follower of all those forces and interests which he believes will contribute to the material, intellectual, social and moral progress of his adopted city.

CHARLES WILLIAM KERR, D. D.

Rev. Charles William Kerr, who is serving for the twenty-second year as pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Tulsa, has the distinction of having held the longest pastorate of any minister in the state of Oklahoma. His birth occurred at Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of April, 1875, his parents being T. A. and Annie (Miller) Kerr. The mother passed away in 1875, but the father is still living and for more than forty years has been actively engaged in the mercantile business at Parkers' Landing, Pennsylvania. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents of Rev. Mr. Kerr were of Scotch descent and came to the new world from the north of Ireland, taking up their abode among the early settlers of western Pennsylvania.

Charles W. Kerr began his education in a country school and subsequently became a student in the Slippery Rock State Normal School, from which he graduated in 1893. He holds a life certificate as a teacher and for two years following his graduation from the above named institution he taught in the schools of Parkers Landing, at the same time making up college studies under a private tutor. In the fall of 1895 he entered the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, for he had determined to devote his life to the work of the ministry. Three years later he was graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago, while in 1918 the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him. The day following the completion of his course at the McCormick Seminary he started for Edmond, Oklahoma, and from the 10th of May, 1898, until February 10, 1900, he served as pastor of Presbyterian churches at that place and at Waterloo. Since the latter date he has held the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church of Tulsa, covering a period of more than twenty-one years, during which the membership of the

church has kept pace with the remarkable growth and development of Tulsa, which was a village of only one thousand population when Mr. Kerr took up his ministerial duties here. Under his guidance the congregation has steadily grown in numerical strength until the members now number two thousand one hundred and sixty-five and the church has become a potent force for moral progress in the community. The small church at the beginning was able to pay Dr. Kerr but four hundred and twenty-five dollars, while the remainder of his salary of eight hundred dollars was contributed by the Home Mission Board. Today the First Presbyterian church of Tulsa is in a prosperous and flourishing condition and the pastor has the whole-hearted and loyal support of his congregation.

On the 6th of September, 1898, at Parkers Landing, Pennsylvania, Rev. Mr. Kerr was united in marriage to Miss Anna E. Coe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Coe of that place. They have become the parents of two children: Hawley Coe, nineteen years of age, a junior in the University of Tulsa; and Margaret R., who is a maiden of sixteen summers and is a junior in the Tulsa high school. In his wife Dr. Kerr has an able and devoted assistant in all of his church work.

Politically Dr. Kerr maintains an independent attitude, always standing for good government, irrespective of party. Fraternally he is identified with Tulsa Lodge, No. 71, A. F. & A. M., and Indian Consistory, No. 2, of McAlester, Oklahoma. He is a director of the City Club and has been a trustee of the University of Tulsa from the time of its establishment here thirteen years ago. He is chairman of the Home Mission Committee of the Tulsa Presbytery and has also been an active member of the Religious Work Committee since the organization of the local Y. M. C. A. Throughout the period of the World war he served as one of the Four-Minute men for Tulsa county, assisted in all the war drives and devoted some time to Y. M. C. A. work in Texas camps. His career has been one of great usefulness and worth, for with consecrated zeal he has labored untiringly for the upbuilding of his church and community.

PATRICK M. MISKELL.

Patrick M. Miskell, possessing tact, force and ability of the highest order and in fact all the qualities which are deemed of value in the attainment of success, is now a prominent figure in the oil circles of Oklahoma, and is a valued resident of Tulsa. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, September 29, 1876, and is one of the five living children in a family of six, whose parents were Thomas and Mary (Murphy) Miskell, likewise natives of the Emerald isle. When thirty-three years of age the father came to the United States with his family, settling in Pennsylvania, where he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He now resides at Kane, that state, but has retired from active business.

Patrick M. Miskell obtained his education in the public schools of Kane and like his father entered the railway service, being connected with the Pennsylvania system for eleven years in various positions in the operating department. He afterward entered the employ of the Kane Bank & Trust Company, with which he served five years, and then became identified with the Barnsdall Corporation, oil pipe line contractors, laying pipe lines in Oklahoma and Kansas.