

No ceremony in naming little town of Bradley

No great amount of ceremony accompanied the naming of the southeastern Grady County town, Bradley, and it didn't take a lot of political wire pulling to secure the post office there.

W.S. Bradley, who was the "village blacksmith" for around 50 years and one of the men for whom the town was named, told once how simple the whole affair was.

"It was a short time after I had settled there that the few of us living there were sitting on top of a hill talking one day and we decided we needed a post office," Mr. Bradley related. "Al Easley, my brother, Winter, Jim Bearl and I were talking it over and we decided to call the town Bradley. With that name we sent our application to Washington and the first thing we knew out came the post office. Mr. Bearl was appointed postmaster and Bradley was officially on the map.

"Moved here in 1886."

Mr. Bradley, born in Virginia on March 22, 1853, moved to Texas in 1877. There he made his living as a buffalo hunter, drilled artesian wells and was a brakeman on the Texas Pacific Railroad.

In 1886 he moved to what is now Bradley from Colbert Station. Soon after moving to the community, he opened his blacksmith shop. During the early days he farmed and raised stock as well as operated his blacksmith shop. He died in 1941.

"In the early days it didn't cost but \$5 a year for permits for the use of the land that we used for stock pasture," he said.

"It was a few years after W.V. "Red" Alexander moved into the country that I sold my first bale of cotton in Alex. The town was named for Mr. Alexander."

Mr. Bradley's granddaughters are Doloris Muegge and Beatrice Hamilton of Chickasha.



W.S. Bradley