

Biographical Sketch of
Rev. J. Leighton Read, D.D.

Oklahoma

Reverend J. Leighton Read, 18-year Norman resident, was the son of Rev. John J. Jeremiah Read, of Hinds Co., Miss., and Lilliah Pratt Porter, daughter of Rev. A. A. Porter of South Carolina. Rev. Read celebrated his 20th birthday September 14. He was born in Paris, Texas in 1879. 9-14-1879

Rev. Read's father was superintendent of the Spencer Academy, a Choctaw school for boys, near Deaksville, Indian Territory, which was about 14 miles northeast of what is now Hugo, Okla. He was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in 1876 and served until 1881. He then entered full time evangelistic work in unoccupied territory among the Chickasaw Indians and settled near the old Wapanucka Academy from which Wapanucka, Oklahoma got its name. Here Rev. Read grew up.

Reverend Read attended secondary school and college at Austin College, Sherman, Texas, where he graduated with a BA degree in 1901. In the fall of 1902, he entered the Austin Presbyterian Seminary at Austin, one of six who formed the first class of that institution.

Reverend Read served as pastor to a group of churches at Turdon, Ark, being ordained by the Ouachita Presbytery in October, 1905. He was pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church at Little Rock, Arkansas from 1912-1917, when he received a call from the Board of Domestic Missions, Reformed Church in America, to the Colony, Oklahoma mission among the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians. He served here six years and was transferred to the mission at Lawton among the Comanche and Apache Indians. He was married to the former Katherine Kauchobe of Virginia in 1913.

In 1926, Read received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater, Austin College, Sherman, Texas.