

W A P A N U C K A :

WAPANUCKA POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED.

The first Wapanucka Post Office, was at the Rock Academy, and was established March 5, 1883, with Frank P. Well's as first Postmaster.

It may be of interest here to mention two bits of History connected with the establishment of the Post Office at Wapanucka with which, Mrs Lilah P. Read (wife of Rev. J.J. Read a Presbyterian Missionary to the Choctaw Nation, and one of the minister's responsible for Church Services at the Rock Academy) had an important part .

When the petition was made for the Post Office, and a name was to be selected, Mrs Reed said that by all means it should be named WAPANUCKA for the famous "Old ROCK ACADEMY", (a Chickasaw Boarding School established in the vicinity in 1858.)

Then when it was proposed to move the Post-Office to Button Springs community (so named because of the peculiar formation of the Limestone Rocks around the Spring)

The Post Office Department had to know exactly how far this was from the nearest Post Office Boggy Depot. Again we hear of Mrs. Reed.

There was no Surveyor, but Mrs. Read offered a solution. She and Rev. Read tied a Red Cloth to their Buggy Wheel and she counted the Revolution's between the proposed Site and the town of Boggy Depot. And Mrs. converted the revolution's into miles.

Later when the Country was surveyed, it was found Mrs. Read's figures were as accurate as if the distance had been measured with a chain.

On Dec. 17, 1888 the Post Office was moved and established in what is now THE TOWN OF WAPANUCKA, with Alvo A. Taylor as Postmaster.

WAPANUCKA, CHOCTAW NATION, INDIAN TERRITORY

Dated 1896- OLD TOWN: Situated across the Branch.

At this date, several families moved from New Boggy Depot to Wapanucka, following a few of the names of the families. C.A. Skeen, E.J. Ball & L.B. Rutherford, merchant Hotel Mgr. Ben O'Neal, Dr. E.O. Loomis & Dr. M.P. Skeen.

At this date Wapanucka had a population of about 350, It being a Presbyterian Mission, there was only church building, and what few Baptist and Methodist living here worshiped with the Presbyterians.

There being no school building at this time, the Presbyterian church was used for the Presbyterian Mission school during the five week days. All children of town and community attending this school. Parents who were able paid tuition for their children those who were not able to pay, their children went free. The few Indian children's tuition was paid by the Indian Agency .

The Town consist of the following business at this time. United States Post-Office, 2-Drug stores, 2-General Merchandise stores, Barber Shop, Millinery Shop (Ladies hats and accessories), Black Smith Shop, one Cotton Gin. At this time there was no Bank or no Rail-Road, Banking was done in Denison, Texas and all freight was hauled from Atoka & Caddo, Indian Territory.