History Of The Early Life Un The Town Of Ahoskie, North

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WAYLAND HAYES on of Richard Hayes



ilies, natives to this area, which was the junction of roads connecting the then existing towns of Hertford and Bertie counties. The three tracts of land were owned by the Mitchells, Jenkinses and Hayes, and each contained a large acreage of





at Ahoskie years later.

Thomas Wright Hayes, the Methodist preacher, came over to Hertford County from the Reynoldson section of Gates County in 1830, and married a young widow who before her first marriage was Nancy Jernigan, a daughter of Miles H. Jernigan, grandfather of the late Thomas R. Jernigan, U.S. Consul to Japan and China during Cleveland's advantistration. (Thomas R. Jernigan, U.S. Consul to Japan and China during Cleveland's Advantistration. (Thomas R. Jernigan, the Jernigan, Ahoskie's present day postmaster). Two of the sons of the union between Thomas Wright Hayes and Nancy Jernigan, Thos. C. and Richard A., later became owners of the original home tract by inheritance and purchase from the

A FIRST CITIZEN OF AHOSKIE

HAYES DESCENDANTS
off to right: Vernon H. Garrett, Nina Hayes Rogers, and Ella Garrett.

Garrett.

Missioners of the Town of Ahoskie.

other heirs. There were 100 acres, and it was divided into 45 and 55-acre tracts. Richard Hayes taking over the former and Thomas Hayes the latter, which included the original home site, now owned by J. Hayes Brett, a great-great-grandson of the Son, Ernest Hayes now him tract, located on the spot where his son, Ernest Hayes now lives. The house was burned years later and the present resi-



Dr. Jesse H. Mitchell and wife, Rosa Montgomery, but the Baptist desince he was a old of sports and a became a town, kers.

first husband's, The Jenkins and is occupied ate W. C. and he Hayes fament to Nannichte West and that time the deal all but a of town: emother of at town which has taken practically and that time the deal all but a of town: emother of at town which has taken practically and has only partially been taken own, but that practical was a nonly partially been taken own, but that practical was a nonly partially been taken own, but that practical was a nonly partially been taken own, but that practical was a nonly partially been taken own, but that practical was a nonly partially been taken of the was any official recognition of Ahoskie as a town (1889), schools had been operating in and near the town site. Doctor J. H. Mitchell maintained a private school near the front gate of the Mitchell plantation, and an old popular tree still standing just inside the front drive to the home, on West Church street, marks the spot where the school chitidren of that day played. Miss Emma Nowell was the teacher. The school was supported by Dr. Mitchell and by the children of other families on adjacent plantations. There were other small schools located within short distances of the present town, each supplying the need of small areas, restricted in size because of lack of trans-

farm within the incorporation.

The Jerkins land has only partially been taken into own, but that portion of it sold to J. R. Garrett is largely within the incorporation, with sections of it developed into esidential areas and other acres still under cultivation as farm lands. J. C. (Cad) Jenkins still owns the original tract and lives at the old home place, a few hundred yards south of he town limits. The parents of J. C. Jenkins were W. C. and Nancy Hayes (daughter of Thomas Wright Hayes) Jenkins, and their original holdings include other property on the astern outskirts of the town, part of it being the land on which the first Ahoskie Baptist church (now Presbyterian hurch property) was built and the larm land owned by C. R. Odom and others on the Ahoskie-Powellsville highway. The lenkins family had sold off the latter tracts before the beginings of the town of Ahoskie, the lambit of W. Mitchell. Jenkins family had sold off the latter tracts before the begin-ings of the town of Alockie, the Lamity of W. Michael's equifing it. W. J. Mitchell settled there after he marriage o Sallie Vann, the daughter of the late John A. Vann of Winton. The Mitchell family lived there until the early 920's when they moved to Buckhorn, Virginia. The other Mitchell property at the West end of town, ay in a most favored position when Aloskie was born. Much of the town is built on the land and present day members of he family still own and control large and valuable portions of it. Dr. George W. Mitchell, son of the late Dr. Jesse H.



D. P. (PERCY) BAKER

town on the parcels of land that helped to form the old Luke McGlohon farm. The children, all by the first wife of Dr. j. H. Mitchell–Miss Rosa Montgomery–are: Lloyd M., Dr. Paul H., and Carl, of Ahoskie; and Dr. Geo. W. Mitchell, Wilson.

From these, then—the Mitchells, the Hayes, the Jenkinses

-came the makings of the town of Ahoskie. There were others living on adjoining farms who migrated later and joined with these pioneer families in building a town.

CHAPTER IV



portation facilities. The first public school in the town of portation facilities. The first public school in the town of Ahoskic was built on property adjoining the Baptist church fit was a two-room building, and today is serving as kitchen and Jining room for the granddaughter of "Uncle" Isaac Newsome, colored, an early settler. Early teachers in this schoowere Miss Nannie Wilson and Miss Cota Stanwood. The taught the children of the first residents of the official Aborbic.

taught the children of the first residents of the ontendadoskie.

Young Cad (J. C.) Jenkins, to whom had been left the state of his late parents, seeking to free the property of lienteld by Norfolk, Virginia; cotton factors, raised funds for the outpose by selling the timber rights on the Jenkins plantation of Wright Power, a Powellsville sawmill operator. Power arcted a mill on the property, on a spot within a few yards of the present residence of the late J. R. Garrett, in 1880, earlier than this, a gin and sawmill had been operated on the Jarke McGlobon place somewhere near the intersection of Church and Mitchell streets.

On the very eve of Ahoskie's coming into official being, major catastrophe happened to the Powell mill. In the early part of 1888, the mill boiler blew up, killed the firemany of Sessoms, burned the eyes of the owner, Powell until he ost his eyesight, and severely burned Watt Holloman. Mack

rebuilding the wreck and expan