

Custer County History

(A Brief Overview of Our Heritage)

After a lengthy negotiation effort between our national government and the Cheyenne-Arapahoe tribes, three million acres of their former reservation was about to undergo a tremendous change. What a change! The Cheyenne-Arapahoe Homestead Run took place on April 19, 1892. At high noon, over 25,000 people took part in the wild scramble to claim this land.

By sunset over 400 lots in the county seat of 'G' County had been staked and the first courthouse (a tent) was in operation. The first county officers were appointed by the Territorial Governor A.J. Seay. Since that time they have been chosen by popular ballot. The newborn town of ARAPAHO took its name from the Arapahoe Indian tribe who once occupied this area. It means "blue sky men" or "blue cloud men".

'G' County became Custer County in 1896, following that general election. During the ensuing years, several attempts were made to remove the courthouse to another location, but these efforts failed at the ballot box. The citizens of our county did unite to improve the current courthouse during the later years of the "oil boom". The current structure was renovated to make it one of the best courthouses in the State of Oklahoma. Open house was held in June, 1985 and we have proudly displayed it to civic groups and other interested parties since that time.