

DAILY



PRESS

Ocean Grove, New Jersey
June 20, 1888

FAIR OKLAHOMA'S LAND History of the Movement by Payne

TAHLEQUAH, I.T.

Oklahoma is in the center of the Indian Territory and contains 2400 square miles. The Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles deeded it to the US in 1866 with a specific understanding that it should be occupied by other Indian tribes. The government paid the four tribes from 15 to 30 cents per acre for the land. Soon, the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Osage, Kansas, Nez Perces, Poncas, Ottoes, Missouras, Pawness, Sac and Foxes, Iowas, and Kickapoos received tracts of land. In this condition of affairs, the "Kansas Boys" began a dozen years ago to try to experiment with settling in the territory. They were promptly rejected by the government. Capt. D.L. Payne of Indiana had hunted and scouted the territory. He began to organize a band to take possession and made no less than 11 raids into the country- run out sometimes by the Indians and sometimes by the cavalry. In 1883, he was arrested for violating Indian treaties, but was released. With a larger colony than ever, the "Boomers" took possession of the land long enough to build a village and set up a newspaper, the Oklahoma Chief. But General Hatch and the 9th Cavalry drove out the whole colony. Soon after, Capt. Payne died but Capt. W.L. Couch from New York took over. By March, 1885, he not only had 1,000 colonists ready, including 400 armed men, but had the support of several congressmen.

Letter to the Editor: