



PLATT NATIONAL PARK

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This beauty spot of Oklahoma, Platt National Park, was first owned by the Chickasaws and Choctaws. This was their summer camping and hunting grounds long before the white man set foot there.

The Indians journeyed long distances over dusty roads to the medicine springs. These springs were their "cure all" for many different diseases. Sulphur water was the most abundant. It gushed forth from the hillside and ran down the creek for miles, coating everything white which it touched. The Indians drank freely of it and soon regained their health.

At that time the woods abounded in game. Deer was plentiful. The streams were full of fish. Then, as now, it was an ideal camping ground. During July and August, some of the most prominent families of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Tribes might be found there for a week or more at a time.

The springs were situated at the foothills of the Arbuckle Mountains. The breeze cooled the atmosphere and made it a delightful place in summer.

Fort Arbuckle was established in 1851. Soon afterward a mail and stage route was put into operation. Stage stands were located at Caddo, Tishomingo, Emitt, Mill Creek, Pauls Valley, Erin Springs (at that time called Elm Springs), Maysville (old Beef Creek), Fort Arbuckle and, then Fort Sill, the farthest outstanding military post in the southwest.

The Mill Creek stage stand was near Sulphur at the home of Cyrus Harris, Governor of the Chickasaws. During the year 1872, among the people who came to Mill Creek, was a young man, Noah Lael, who carried the mail from Gainesville, Texas, to Fort Arbuckle. That same year he secured the contract for shoeing horses from the El Paso Overland Stage Company. His territory embraced the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Indian Territory. It was not many years until he accumulated what was considered at that time a nice little fortune.

Mr. Lael thought Miss Lucy Harris the most attractive of the daughters of the Governor. It was his good fortune to woo and win her as his wife. So they were married in 1878, when she was just past sixteen. At that time, when a white man married a girl of the Chickasaw or Choctaw Tribe, he became one of them, and was accorded the same privileges. In those early days any Indian could take up a claim which was not used and have every right to it except the right of giving deeds.

There, on a prominent hill, he built a four room house, his first home. Then he went to Texas and bought three hundred head of cattle. When the cattle were located on the ranch he took his young wife to the new home. This was the beginning of the settlement of the place now known as Sulphur Springs.

Perry Froman, another intermarried citizen, who had married a Chickasaw widow, Mrs. Lovina Colbert Pitchlynn, bought this ranch from Noah Lael in 1882. The bill of sale is as follows: "Know all men, by these presents that we Noah Lael and Lucy Lael of Tishomingo County Chickasaw Nation, do this day bargain sell and convey to Perry Froman a certain place lying on Rock Creek Tishomingo County; known as the Noah Lael "Sulphur Springs Place" and all the improvements belonging to said place, for the consideration of Three Hundred and fifty dollars in hand paid, the receipt hereby acknowledged. We do hereby warrant and defend the title to said place to Perry Froman his heirs and legal representatives forever.

"Given under our hand and seal this 26th day of September, A. D. 1882.

Noah Lael
Lucy Lael

The scope of country the ranch embraces is not specified in the conveyance but it was said to be four miles square.

It is an interesting fact to know that the only daughter of the Fromans, Celeste, married the son of Noah Lael.

Perry Froman went into the cattle raising business on a very extensive scale. At times he handled as many as fifteen thousand head a season. He continued to hold the ranch place until the allotment of the Chickasaw and Choctaw lands

