

and lives in Durant.

When Dr. Robert D. Lowther died in Norman, December 15, 1946, the Norman Transcript printed the following article.

"Death claimed Dr. R. D. Lowther, 77, Cleveland County's last practicing pioneer physician.

Dr. Lowther came to Cleveland County as a 'country doctor' in 1890, and had been actively engaged in the practice of medicine up to the time he became seriously ill, two months earlier--this is a fifty-six year span of service to the people of the county.

Dr. Lowther had practiced medicine in Texas, but he was young and daring and cast his lot with the new territory. Although he had an office he rarely used it in the early years. With a medical kit strapped on the side of his saddle, the twenty-one year old doctor rode a fast horse through the tall prairie grass and black jacks, opening new trails to the homes of the pioneer settlers.

In the early days in Norman and when there was no bridge across the Canadian River, pioneers recall that it was not uncommon for him to ride his horse across the river in all kinds of weather. It was said that he often forded the Canadian when it was bank to bank in flood stage. With his medical kit swung high on his shoulder, for protection, and often forced to swerve his horse to avert the on-rushing logs and waves of water he made every crossing successfully. As a result he often brought relief to the suffering in cases in which the alternative might have resulted in death.

Dr. Lowther not only rode his horse in all kinds of weather to aid the sick, he also made night trips to see his patients. This was a dangerous thing in the early days when there were roving Indians and outlaws who made

a night trip a perilous thing; but the young doctor did not stop to think of the dangers, his only thought was for his patients."

Dr. Lowther was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and he belonged to the Democrat political party. He was a member of the Oklahoma Territorial Medical Association and of the State Medical Association. He was initiated into the Masonic Lodge No. 5, A.F. A. M. in Norman, O. T. He served as the medical examiner for the Modern Woodmen of America and for the American Union Life Insurance Company. He enlisted in the American Army during World War I, where he served as a First Lieutenant in the medical corps. He received an honorable discharge at Marfa, Texas, April 24, 1919.

Dr. R. D. Lowther was survived by his wife, Dorothy E. Chesney Lowther, two daughters, Mrs. Oscar B. Holland and Mrs. Clinton M. Shaw of Durant, Okla.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Lowther continued to live in the family home in Norman until her death, at the age of eighty, in 1951.

She had come to Cleveland County in 1890 from Belleville, Ark., in a covered wagon with her parents, Dr. Samiel O. and Mrs. Chesney. Dr. Chesney had settled on a farm about eight miles east of Norman, near the little village of Denver. For many years he practiced medicine in Denver and in the eastern part of Cleveland County.

After Dorothy E. Chesney had married Dr. R.D. Lowther and they had moved into a comfortable home in Norman, she entered into the social and civic life of Norman. She was a life long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was a very active member of the church and of the missionary society. Mrs. Lowther was a member of the Black Beaver Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and of the Old Friends Club.

Mrs. R. D. Lowther was survived by her two daughters, Nadine Holland (Mrs. O. B.) and Irma Shaw (Mrs. C.M.), three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Russell, of California, Coralie Baggett (Mrs. Bert), of Norman, and Mrs. Laura Bungarner, Tulsa, and one brother, Tom Chesney, Norman, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Both Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Lowther were buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Norman.