

the two opposing factions it is best to refer to meeting minutes of the county commissioners of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma township;

**April 8, 1904** - The application of the citizens of Capitol Hill for the incorporation of said town, was taken up.

There being a protest filed against the granting of said petition filed by R.A. Caldwell, and others. It being shown to the satisfaction of the board that the petition is legal and according to law, it is ordered adjudged and decreed by this court that a notice for a meeting of the qualified voters residents in said proposed town be held at the office of G.F. Walker in Capitol Hill in the 21st day of April 1904, to determine whether such territory shall be an incorporated town.

**May 3, 1904** -Decree of Incorporation.

"On this 3rd day of May, 1904, came to be heard the return of the inspectors elected to hold the election to determine as to whether Capitol Hill, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma township, should be incorporated and it appeared to this court after duly considering same and all evidence in the matter that the same

In the petition census, the number of qualified voters were listed as 714. In reviewing the two petitions still filed with the County Clerk, an observer will learn that at least two Capitol Hill residents signed both the petition for and against incorporation.

is regular and in conformity to law and has been duly and properly returned to this court as provided by law; and that said election was held and conducted according to law:

"This board of county commissioners find from said returns so made, that said election was legal and that a majority of the qualified voters of the territory to the incorporated of said town of Capitol Hill were in favor of incorporating same; it is therefore ordered and adjudged and decreed that said town included and bounded as follows:

"Beginning at the NW corner of the SW 4, Sec. 9, Twp 11, R3W in Oklahoma county, Oklahoma territory, thence south 9 degrees; 30 W 2625 feet thence south 80 degrees; 05 E 7903 feet to the SE corner of the SW quarter of section 10 twp 11 N of R3W. As aforesaid thence 10 degrees; 08' 2625 feet to the NW corner of the SW quarter of said township aforesaid, thence south 80 degrees 05' W 1228 feet thence N 10 degrees L 05' W 330, thence north 88 degrees; 05' W 64 feet thence north 10 degrees; 07 E 1690 to a corner in the Canadian river,

## Benoni Harrington, father of Capitol Hill

When Benoni Harrington first passed thru this country in 1887, he was a correspondent for the Wichita Beacon. Hamlin W. Sawyer, editor, asked Harrington to write more articles about Indian Territory. Circulation was boosted to such an extent that Sawyer established a small plant at the future site of Oklahoma City. A depot, a section house and a federal office were the only indication that a city might grow here. When Sawyer asked Harrington to suggest a name, he said "Why, call it the Oklahoma City Times."

While this paper was agitating for settlement, the Federal Government sent a detachment of troops after Harrington to stop his writing —so he thought.

Harrington was traveling back and forth between Wichita and the Santa Fe station at Purcell and was not arrested by the soldiers until Jan. 10, 1889.

Unaware why he was arrested, he was indignant as he was marched the Sergeant's tent and was told "you're going to open this country to settlement."

The settlement bill was passed in February but

in the meantime, upon advice of an officer, Harrington went to Purcell to await further developments and write his report on his observations of Indian Territory. While in Purcell, a Mr. Taylor had been sent from Washington D.C. to verify his reports. Sooners, gathering at Purcell asked him to lead them across the line but Harrington said, "No."

Agitation was so great, Harrington wrote a letter to Pres. Harrison recommending that the time for the opening be set for high noon on April 22.

The delegate from Washington offered Harrington any quarter section he wanted adjoining the depot, but Harrington refused only to purchase lots on what is now California, after the run.

He purchased the 160 acre claim of Tryphosa Boyd and platted it in 1900 as Capitol Hill. Harrington predicted a tree lined boulevard from Capitol Hill to Norman, to be called University Drive.



B. R. Harrington drawn by Francis Noonan

**Harrington refused to be photographed. Editor Francis Noonan, quite an editorial cartoonist, sketched the old man on a small pad, on his fingernails and on the palm of the other hand. —Sept. 19, 1941**