



SOUTHWEST GREENWOOD COUNTY **MINI-HISTORY OF SOUTHWEST GREENWOOD COUNTY**

When the first settlers arrived in Greenwood County in the 1850's, they found that most of the southern part was included in the Kansas reservations for the Osage Indians. Later, when the Indians were mandated to leave, it was possible for the pioneers to move into the southwest quadrant if the Indians agreed. Many of the early settlers were of Scandinavian and German descent. They found the hills to be of breathtaking beauty and the valleys, which separated them, lush and fertile.

Since most of the pioneers came from agricultural backgrounds, they opted for the potential cropland first, but soon realized the value of the grass-covered hills.

Today both ranching and farming are practiced. Oil has also become a part of the economy.

Three towns developed in this area. Reece, Piedmont and Blodgett. (The latter met its demise.) Although 8 post offices were established, only the one in Piedmont survives. Twenty-three school districts were organized; however, all students are now bussed to Eureka or the West Elk district.

We have identified many structures and sites of historical significance as well as several places of interest, which can be seen from public roads.

NOTE: All places can be seen from public roads. Please do not trespass on private property unless you get special permission from the owners.

For more information, write or call:

The Greenwood County Museum
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Southwest Greenwood County – Tour Guide

- 1. REECE** – Established on the railroad in 1882. Church is the only public building still in use. Some residential homes are still in use. From Highway 54, turn south at Reece sign and go 1 mile.
- 2. RUINS OF STAGE COACH STATION** – Operated in the 1860's and 70's. Stage ran from Eureka to El Dorado. Three-story building. Burned in the 1960's. Only partial remains are left. From intersection of 130th Street and E40 Road (south end of Reece), go west on 130th Street 3.5 miles. The remains of the building are located on the north side of the road.
- 3. TWO ROWS OF BLACK POSTS** – This strip of land approximately 200 feet wide extended in an east/west direction and defined the Indian limits and the correction line of the 38th parallel. From the intersection of 110th Street and G Road 600, go east on 110th Street and look to the south. The fence row on the south side of the road is the northern boundary of the 200-foot strip. You can still see fence posts for the southern boundary.
- 4. LOWERY CEMETERY** – Served the African American community after the Civil War. Land belonged to the Lowery's, a well-known family. Son Perry was a famous musician, and nephew Eugene was a legendary cowboy. From intersection of 110th Street and G Road 600, go east 1/10 mile on 110th Street. Cemetery is located on the north side of the road. There are two headstones in the right of way and one in the pasture. There are other unmarked graves in the pasture.
- 5. STONE ARCH BRIDGE OVER OTTER CREEK** – Three arch bridge built in 1908. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. From the intersection of J Road and 60th Street, go south on J Road .1 mile. The bridge is located on the east side of the road.
- 6. STAR SCHOOLHOUSE** – Stone schoolhouse built in 1882. From the intersection of 60th Street and G Road, go west on 60th Street .4 mile. The Schoolhouse is located on the north side of the road.
- 7. STAR / OTTER CREEK NUMBER TWO CEMETERY** – Lovely old peaceful cemetery. From the intersection of 60th Street and G Road, go west .3 mile on 60th Street. Located on the south side of the road.
- 8. ROLLING BRIDGE SCHOOLHOUSE** – Stone building built in 1890. Unusual distance from the road. From the intersection of Highway 400 and G Road, go south on G Road .5 mile. The schoolhouse is located off the west side of the road about ¼ mile
- 9. HILLSIDE “P” (PIEDMONT)**—Piedmont High School students made the rock letter in 1927. Freshmen painted and straightened the rock every year until the school closed. From J80 Road and 11th Street in Piedmont, go 1 block south and turn right or west. Look to the southwest near the top of the hill to see the letter. The letter is located about ½ mile southwest of the old Piedmont gym.
- 10. PIEDMONT** – Developed on the railroad in the 1880's. Café, post office and rodeo facilities still exist. Community activities revolve around the churches. From the intersection of Highway 400 and K Road, go south on K Road .8 mile to the town.
- 11. BOYD STEWARD ROUND HOUSE** – Built in the 1970's, it is a very unique style home. From the intersection of Highway 400 and P Road, go north on P Road 2 miles. The house is located on the west side of the road.
- 12. PLEASANT VIEW / LUDVICKSON CEMETERY** – Many early settlers are buried here. From the intersection of P Road and 60th Street go west on 60th Street .4 mile. The cemetery is located on the north side of the road.
- 13. INDIANA HOLLER (BOHEMIAN HOLLER)** – In the 1870's a large group of settlers from Indiana made the valley their home. This was a close-knit community for many years. Best view is going from south to north. From the intersection of 40th Street and R Road, go west on 40th Street .6 miles. The road turns north and the valley is to the west, or left, as you go down the hill.
- 14. STEWART / PIONEER CEMETERY** – Very small and old cemetery. From the intersection of Highway 54 and Highway 99 South, go south on Highway 99 2 miles. The cemetery is located on the west side of Highway 99 in the trees.
- 15. OLD DOWNARD HOUSE** – Stone house built in 1868. It had a basement and is one of the oldest houses in the county. It is on the north side of Fall River, near timberline. Some walls are still standing. Best seen in the fall and winter when the leaves are off the trees. From the intersection of Highway 54 and Highway 99, go south on Highway 99 1.8 miles and the house is located on the west side of the highway about ¼ mile.
- 16. CHRISTIAN HILLS CAMP** – Built originally in 1962 by the Disciples of Christ Church, it is still a retreat center, but no longer owned by the church. From the intersection of Highway 54 and M Road, go south on M Road 1.8 miles. The camp is located on the east side of the road.