

**ANNETTE
ROSS
HUME
1858-1933**



**PHOTOGRAPHING
OKLAHOMA
HISTORY**

When Annette Ross Hume stepped out of the wagon in Anadarko, Oklahoma Territory, just after dark on New Year's Eve 1890, she had no idea what her life would be like. She was 32 years old, a well-educated doctor's wife, with two young sons. Her only distinction was only too common among women of her day: she had buried three other babies under the flat, unforgiving surface of the Kansas frontier she had left behind.

Annette Ross was born in March 1858 in Perrysburg, Ohio, where she married Dr. Charles Hume in December 1876. As her family headed into unchartered Oklahoma Territory with thousands of other families, she was determined to help her husband succeed in his new post as physician for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Agency in Caddo County.

In 1890, the future town of Anadarko was all pasture, cornfields, tents, and tepees. Using her first camera, Hume began taking detailed, powerfully historic photographs of her Native American friends and the area. She chronicled the acculturation of the Southern Plains Indians, expansion into their territory by American farmers and tradesmen, and blending of the two cultures. The photographs of the establishment of Anadarko comprise a large portion of Annette's surviving glass plate collection.

Hume became one of America's first female photographers, adding imagery to history as Oklahoma transformed from reservations to towns and farm communities. She documented images of mothers with babies in cradleboards, tribal elders (including Quanah Parker) conducting council meetings, and families receiving beef from government agents. She photographed missionaries visiting Indian families and captured everyday life in Indian schools -- children attending class, singing in school choirs, and participating in Christmas activities.

Hume's photographic work ended by 1910, as her failing health restricted her camera work. Turning to community service, she became president of the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs in 1913. Her photographs might have languished in obscurity had it not been for historian Edward Everett Dale, head of the University of Oklahoma's history department. Dale learned of Hume's photography, through her son -- and her desire that the collection remain in Oklahoma.

Following personal visits and correspondence with Dale, Hume agreed to sell her glass plates. To prepare the shipment, she carefully identified each image. In 1927, more than 750 of Hume's negatives became the core photographic collection of oilman Frank Phillips' Collection, which was later renamed Western History Collection. Her collection includes 1895 black-and-white photographs, images of Quanah Parker and other leaders, and Kiowa children and homesteads.

Hume was inducted in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1930. She lived to see some of her images published, used to illustrate books, included in documentaries, and exhibited around the United States. She died in Minco at age 74 in January 1933. In their front-page obituary, The Anadarko Tribune newspaper proclaimed, "One of Oklahoma's great pioneer photographers has been lost. We will not see her like again."