

PEOPLE OF GREENWOOD



BUCK COLBERT FRANKLIN

Attorney, Rural Educator, Freedman
(1879 - 1960)

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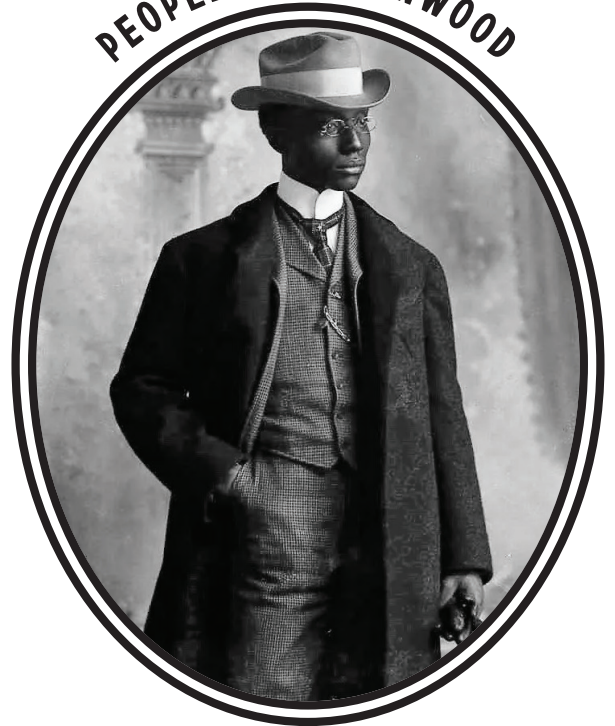
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Buck Colbert Franklin was a first generation college-educated African American who became a lawyer, notably defending survivors of the 1921 Race Riot which had resulted in the murder of a recorded 300 African Americans. The son of a Chickasaw Freedman (emancipated slave), his mother was 1/4 Choctaw Indian, and was named after his grandfather (aka Bular Franklin) who had been a slave of a Chickasaw family in Oklahoma. One of the greatest tributes to Buck Franklin came when the City of Tulsa posthumously named a park in his honor: the "B.C. Franklin Park."

Born May 6, 1879, near Homer, a small country village in what was then Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, Buck Colbert The 1920 Federal Census places him in Checotah, McIntosh, Oklahoma with is wife Mollie, an elementary school teacher. After the loss of his father and subsequent hardships related to his homestead in Tishomingo, OK, Buck and his newlywed wife moved to Wewoka, where he opened and organized the first public school there. While continuing his teaching work, he studied law through correspondence course work.

A special note on names: Buck Colbert referred to his wife as Mrs. Franklin and himself as B.C. Franklin, efforts to counter tendencies of whites to condescendingly call them by their first names.



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