



# Washita

Part of the Cheyenne-Arapaho lands opened to settlement in the land run on April 19, 1892, this area was settled originally in 1886, when a white man named John M. Seger and 500 Indians left the old Cheyenne-Arapaho Agency at Darlington, near El Reno, and established a colony on the banks of Cobb Creek. This settlement was on the site of present-day Colony in eastern Washita County.

Designated as County “H,” it was named after the Washita River. The word is Choctaw meaning “big hunt.” Washita County has ranked as one of Oklahoma’s leading agricultural counties, and the Anadarko Basin made it famous for oil and gas production.

During World War II, a United States Naval Air Station was established at Burns Flat. Closed after the war, the base was reopened in 1959 as the Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base. Many of its squadrons flew missions over Vietnam in the 1960s before the base was closed on December 31, 1969. It has since become the Clinton-Sherman Airport, used by Altus AFB pilots for practice landings and takeoffs.

Events include the Cheyenne-Arapahoe Celebration held on April 16 every five years, the Cordell Pumpkin Festival in October, and a city-wide garage sale in June. For more information, call the county clerk’s office at 580/832-3548 or the Cordell Chamber of Commerce at 888/CORDELL.

## Districts

## County Officials

Cong. ....	3	Court Clerk	Tena Arganbright (D)	Cordell
St. Sen. ....	26	Clerk	Marita McKee (D)	Cordell
St. Rep. ....	55	Sheriff	Ron Mazurek (D)	Cordell
D.A. ....	3	Treasurer	Byron Gore (D)	Gotebo
Ct. of Appeals .....	6	Assessor	Janie Batt Bellah (D)	Cordell
Ct. of Crim. Appeals...	5	Elect. Brd. Sec.	June Wesner (D)	Cordell
Supreme Ct. Jud. ....	4	Dist. 1 Comm.	James Woodrow Gee (D)	Colony
N.W. Jud. Adm. ....	2	Dist. 2 Comm.	Gene Etris (D)	Cordell
		Dist. 3 Comm.	Steve Finnell (D)	Canute

## Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$32,817,916	\$33,545,929	\$728,013
Personal Subject to Tax	\$20,880,282	\$21,752,462	\$872,180
Total Locally Assessed	\$53,698,198	\$55,298,391	\$1,600,193
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$2,798,810	\$2,800,218	\$1,598,785
Net Assessed Locally	\$50,899,388	\$52,498,173	\$1,598,785
Public Service Assessment	\$12,419,513	\$12,441,568	\$22,055
Net Assessed Valuation	\$63,318,901	\$64,939,741	\$1,620,840

**County Seat**—Cordell (Pop. 2,861) 2003 Estimate

**Area (Land & Water)**—1,009.07 square miles

**Per Capita Income (2003)**—\$20,470 (Ranks 59th of 77 counties)

**Population Stats (2000)**—Fem.—5,936, Male—5,572 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—10,406; Bl.—50; Am. Ind.—343; As.—28; Other—3; Pacific Is.—3; Two or more races—179; Hisp.—516

**Births (2003)**—138 • **Deaths (2003)**—153

**Unemployment Rate (2003)**—3.3%

**Labor Force (2003)**—4,840

**Number of Establishments (2002)**—239

**Number of Manufacturers (2002)**—5

**Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)**—\$203,734  
TANF—\$87,381 • Supplements—Aged—\$25,152; Blind—\$1,906; Disabled—\$89,295

**Vehicle Registration (2004)**—Automobiles—6,283; Farm Trucks—1,608; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—422; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—332; Motorcycles—205; Manufactured Homes—11; Tax Exempt Licenses—28; Boats—601

**Crime Incidents (2003)**—Murder—0; Rape—2; Robbery—0; Fel. Assault—10; Breaking and Entering—45; Larceny—64; Motor Vehicle Theft—7; Arson—2 • Total Crime Index—128; Crime Rate per 1,000—11.12

**Farms (2002)**—1,006 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—568,343

**County Population**

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	22,007
1910	25,034
1920	22,237
1930	29,435
1940	22,279
1950	17,657
1960	18,121
1970	12,141
1980	13,798
1990	11,441
2000	11,508
2004 Estimate	11,512

**Major Stream Systems**—Washita River and tributaries to North Fork of Red River

**Museums and Historic Sites**—Washita County Museum, Cordell

**Minerals**—oil and gas

