

Rose Hill Manor House Burns
Old Land Mark Burned Last Week

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The once famous and historic dwelling located at Rose Hill six miles southeast of Hugo burned last Friday night. The cause of the fire is unknown. The night before the fire occurred in the morning, there was a dance in the old manor house, but there was no sign of fire anywhere when the guests and the tenant left shortly before the fire was discovered. The loss is considerable, as it is understood there was no insurance.

This was one of the oldest and most noted buildings in the entire Choctaw Nation. It was built in anti-bellum days and at a time when there was no saw mill to this, the then considered western country, consequently the lumber was shipped by boat up the Red river from New Orleans. This old two story, eight-room building was situated on a hill overlooking a large lawn sloping to the south in which shrubbery, evergreen and rose bushes grew in profusion. Special attention seemed to have been given to the selection and cultivation of roses, and in spring and summer while this great collection of "thorned shrubbery" was in bloom the hill side had the appearance of a solid bed of roses, and it was thus that it acquired its name, Rose Hill. To the south on an opposite hill, was a general merchandise store, grist mill and a cotton gin. For a long time this was the leading trading point for Kiamichi county.

The builder and original owner of Rose Hill was Robert M. Jones, a full blood Choctaw Indian, who enjoyed the distinction of being one of the wealthiest members of his tribe, owning several hundred negro slaves, many horses and cattle, large farms including a large sugar plantation in Louisiana and a fifty thousand dollar mansion in Paris, Texas. A few years after the close of the war Jones died and his widow married Dr. Samuel Bailey, formerly of Kentucky. Later, Robert M. Jones, Jr., a son and heir of Robert M. Jones, Sr., and commonly known as "Little Bob," together with his kinsman, Robert M. Love, killed Bailey over a division of the estate. Soon after the murder of Bailey, "Little Bob" and others killed Tom Young, an acting U.S. marshal. "Little Bob" then fled the country and is said to have committed suicide in St. Louis. Mary Jones, a daughter, married W.W. Randell, and it was one of her children, Elizabeth Randell, who finally inherited the old homestead.