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THE ELLIS POST OFFICE: A SKETCH TO 1882

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Established June 12, 1870. The first four appointments as postmasters:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Henry Metcalt | June 12, 1870 |
| Fred Felitz | October 27, 1870 |
| Thomas Daly | September 25, 1872 |
| William H. Bell | January 31, 1877 |

William G. Cutler in his "History of the State of Kansas," (1883), gives us biographical information only as to Mr. Daly and Mr. Bell.

Thomas Daly was born in Ireland in 1830, and came to America while in his teens. Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in Company E, Fourteenth Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry on May 25, 1861, being mustered in June of 1864. He settled in Ellis in 1870 and opened a general store. On the date of his appointment as postmaster his business was worth close to \$40,000.00.

William H. Bell was born in Montgomery, New York, and lived in Troy and while in Syracuse, New York, married Miss Laura Hall, who bore him seven children. They came to Ellis in 1872, and left his farm in 1873 to work for the Kansas and Pacific Railroad Company. He resigned to accept the position as postmaster in early 1877. While postmaster, he ran a stationery and tobacco goods store to supplement his income.

SKETCH ELLIS, KANSAS, 1867-1882

Ellis was named in honor of First Lieutenant George Ellis of Company I, 12th Kansas, who was killed at Jenkins Ferry on April 30, 1864.

The Kansas and Pacific Railroad employed many townspeople in its terminal facilities, which were built in the early 1870's. After surveying the townsite in 1873, the railroad further encouraged settlement of the area, and by 1882 Ellis had a new schoolhouse, a Congregational Church, and a Masonic Lodge.