

David L. Payne was the charismatic leader of the Boomer movement, which led to the settlement of Oklahoma's Unassigned Lands and later the opening of the Cherokee Strip. Often called the Father of Oklahoma, Payne was remembered by the settlers as the champion of their cause. Payne County was named for David L. Payne, and he is buried at a memorial site near Boomer Lake, in northern Stillwater.