



## PIONEER LEGEND

Dr. Charles Newton Gould, regarded as the "Father of Oklahoma Geology", was born in Ohio in 1868 and moved with his family to Kingman County, Kansas in 1887. Gould attended college and taught in the local public schools prior to receiving a bachelor's degree in 1899 from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. During this time he became interested in geology and received his master of science degree in geology in 1900 and his PhD in 1906, both from the University of Nebraska.

In the summer of 1900 after graduating with his master's degree, Gould was hired by the Oklahoma Territorial legislature to make the first geological reconnaissance trip across Oklahoma. This was done in a horse-drawn covered wagon, leading to the title of his autobiography, "Covered Wagon Geologist". Gould was hired as territorial geologist and geology instructor at the University of Oklahoma, where he organized the university's geology department and taught the first geology course in 1900. He remained at OU as Professor of Geology until 1911. In 1903 the U.S. Geological Survey awarded Gould the project of surveying the underground water resources of the southern plains, which he accomplished during his free time from his university duties.

In 1908 Gould organized the Oklahoma Geological Survey and was the first director until 1911. In 1908 Gould co-authored Bulletin Number 1 of the Oklahoma Geological Survey titled "Preliminary Report on the Mineral Resources of Oklahoma". From 1911 to 1924 Gould was in private practice in Oklahoma City, working primarily with the petroleum industry as a consulting geologist.

During this time Gould prepared reports on 572 properties and played a major role in the discovery of numerous oil fields in Oklahoma, including Poteau, Carter-Knox, and Muskogee. However, his most famous discovery was the Panhandle oil and gas field in Texas in 1918. He initially mapped the Panhandle geology in 1905 while employed by the U.S. Geological Survey, and then he selected the discovery well location in 1917 while on contract with Amarillo Oil Company. At the time no oil or gas had been found within 225 miles, but this gas discovery and subsequent oil discovery in 1920 led to the development of one of the largest oil and gas fields in the world.

Gould returned to the Oklahoma Geological Survey in 1924 and remained as director until 1931. During this period the survey published twenty-three geological bulletins under Gould's direction, among which was the three-volume "Oil and Gas in Oklahoma", generally considered to be one of the most important documents on the State's petroleum geology.

Charles Gould retired from the Oklahoma Geological Survey in 1931, and four years later went to work for the National



Park Service as regional geologist over an eight-state region, which included 7 national parks, 26 national monuments, and numerous state and municipal parks. In 1937 at 69 years old Gould helped map out Big Bend National Park on horseback. From 1935-1940 Gould advised the park service on water

CHARLES NEWTON GOULD  
1868-1949

resources, road construction, future expansion, and prepared 251 scientific reports.

In 1903 Charles married Nina Swan, and they had a daughter and a son. Son Donald Boyd Gould received his BS degree in Geology from the University of Oklahoma in 1928 and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1936, and served as chairman and professor of geology at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Charles Gould, who had been born in a cabin in Ohio in 1868, built his own cabin in the South Park area near Fairplay, Colorado, in 1919 to celebrate his roots. This past summer the descendants of Charles and Nina Gould gathered at "Beaver Lodge" and celebrated 100 years of family memories at the cabin.

Charles Newton Gould passed away in Norman, Oklahoma in 1949, but his legacy as the "Father of Oklahoma Geology" lives on. It is with great pleasure that the Directors of the Oklahoma Geological Foundation present Dr. Charles Newton Gould as a Pioneer Legend Award recipient for 2019.



Van Vleet's field party, 1900; Roy Hadsell, left; Paul J. White, sitting; Gould, right.