



Chapter 3 A FLASH OF TIME



Col. Harry A. Montgomery
July 1939–October 1942



Col. Bruce D. Rindlaub
October 1942–December
1942



Col. Francis J. Wilson
December 1942–April 1946



Col. Claude H. Chorpening
April 1946–May 1949

The rhythm of **THE CORPS' HISTORY** can be seen most clearly in a kind of time-lapse photography: an illustrated timeline that highlights events in the life of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tulsa District.

June 16, 1775 — Col. Richard Gridley of Massachusetts is named the Army's first Chief Engineer and begins work in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

1800s — Riverboat trade on the Arkansas uses flat-boats, keel-boats, pirogues or dugouts.

Apr. 30, 1824 — General Survey Act authorizes President to use Army engineers to survey road and canal routes "of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view."



1832 — First River Act authorizes work on Arkansas River, to maintain a channel to the mouth of Grand River, granting \$15,000 for that work.

1890s — Corps begins regulating US waters, primarily to protect navigation.

1917 — Congress passes first flood control act after monumental floods in 1912 and 1913.



1927 — Historic 1927 flood in Mississippi Valley, a national flood.

1930s — Dust bowl drought and the Great Depression wrack the Arkansas and Red River basins.



July 1935 — Corps notifies Congress that Arkansas River navigation is technically — but not economically — feasible.

1936 — Landmark Flood Control Act creates Southwestern Division and authorizes 211 flood control projects in 31 states.