Preston C. Coleman, M.D. 1989
Dr. Preston Chiles Coleman, a native of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, received his M.D. degree from Louisville Medical School. In 1883 he moved to Colorado City as a horse-and-buggy practitioner.

Education, religion and medicine were his chief concerns. Because of his persistence in helping establish it, Coleman is referred to as the “Father of Texas Tech University”; he was a Trustee, 1906 – 31, or Austin College (Sherman); Trustee of the Colorado City School District.

He was a Texas & Pacific Railroad surgeon; President of the Texas Medical Association; a fellow, American College of Surgeons; an elder in his church; Moderator, 1930, Texas Presbyterian synod; and vice President for Life, West Texas Chamber of Commerce.

Coleman is known for his efforts, starting in 1916, in Mitchell County, in furthering the discovery of commercial oil production in the Permian basin. He was, among other things, a link in the series of transactions that led to the first commercial well in the Permian Basin, opening the Westbrook field, in 1920. In acting as an agent for the people of the community, he neither expected nor received personal profit; he recognized the importance of the petroleum industry to Colorado City and Mitchell County. Coleman died in 1932.