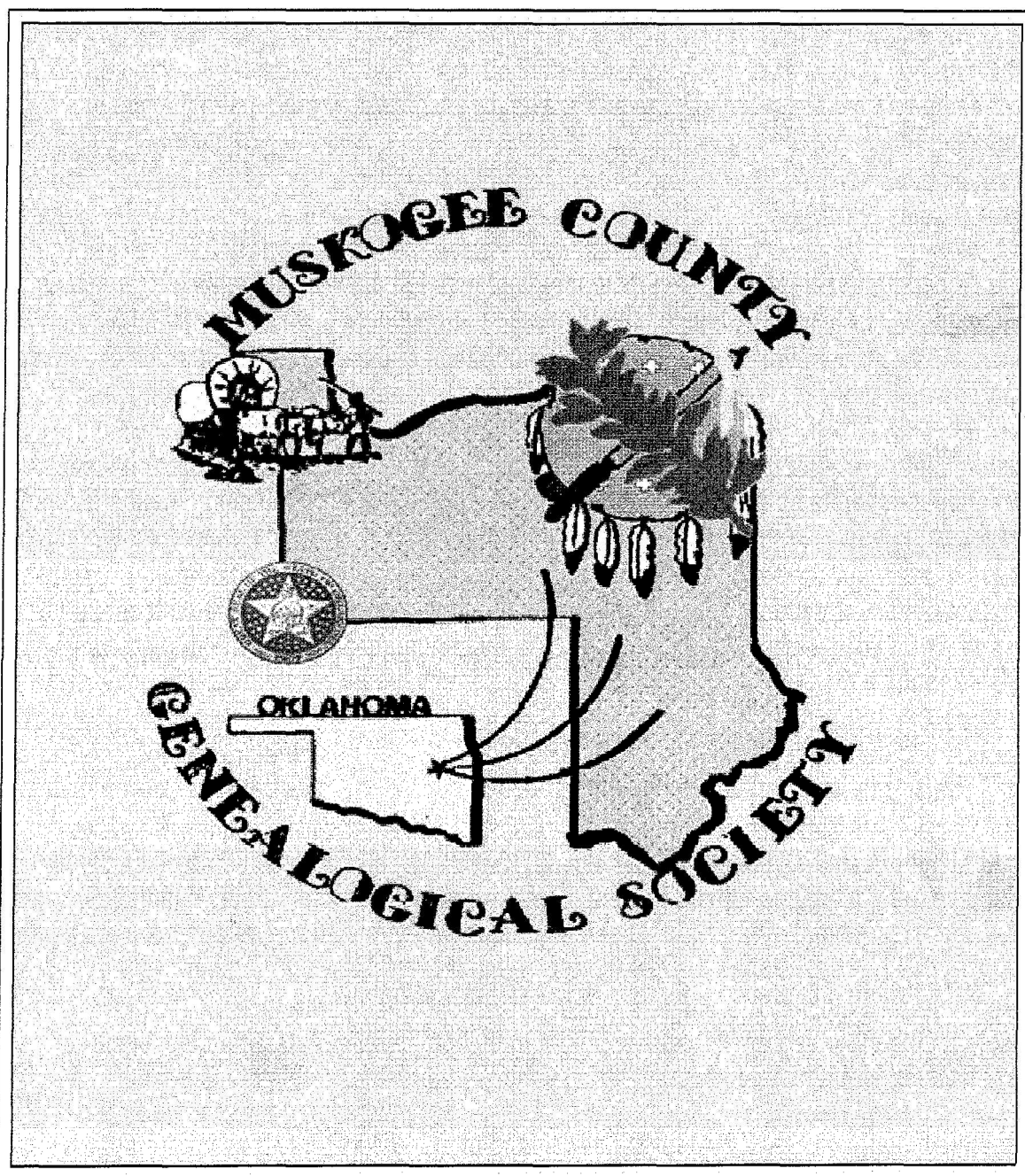


Volume 21, Issue 1

January - March 2004

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

Quarterly Publication January - March 2004



Muskogee County Genealogical Society General Information

Purpose:

The MCGS was formed in 1983 for the purpose of promoting the general study of genealogy through workshops, seminars, and monthly programs; and to discover and preserve any material that may establish or illustrate the history of Indian Territory and Muskogee County and its families.

Meetings and Membership:

MCGS meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK. The Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Muskogee Public Library. All members are invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings.

Membership in the MCGS is open to anyone promoting the purpose of the Society. Membership subscriptions are \$10.00 for individuals and families living in the same household per calendar year, without a quarterly subscription. To have the Quarterly added to your subscription is an extra \$10.00 per calendar year.

TO DEFRAY THE COST OF POSTAGE FOR MAILING YOUR ISSUE OF THE QUARTERLY WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU PICK UP YOUR ISSUE AT THE MONTHLY MEETINGS IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER. THANK YOU!

Publication and Query Information:

The MCGS Quarterly is published four times a year: March, June, September and December. Back issues of the Quarterlies are available for \$5.00 each, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

The Society also publishes books of genealogical interest, focused on Muskogee County and Muskogee Indian Territory. A complete listing and price list is available on page 20 of this quarterly.

MCGS will assist with research questions from members and non-members at no charge, but a donation is appreciated. Please send your requests with a self-addressed stamp envelope to:

Muskogee County Genealogical Society
c/o Muskogee Public Library
801 West Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401

Or you may email your request to:
mucogeso@yahoo.com

2004 Board Members

Alissa Hill, President	Sue Tolbert, Pro Tem Secretary
Stacy Blundell, Vice President	Diana Reaser, Quarterly Editor
Sue Johnson, Treasurer	Sue Tolbert, Past President

Members at Large:

Barbara Downs, Publicity Committee
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Susan Christensen, Library Committee



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4th Annual Ancestor Fair

Saturday, September 25, 2004

9 am to 4 pm

MUSKOGEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE MUSKOGEE PUBLIC

LIBRARY PRESENT THE 4TH ANNUAL ANCESTOR FAIR

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "SKELETON'S IN YOUR CLOSET"

VENDORS, WORKSHOPS & EXHIBITS

WORKSHOPS ARE \$5.00 EACH SESSION, VENDORS AND EXHIBITORS FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SOCIETY AT: MCGESO@YAHOO.COM

Indian Mystery

History, murder, intrigue surround Cherokee courthouse

By Clint Branham, Communications Specialist for REC

*"Enter ye in through the narrow gate.
For wide is the gate and broad is the
path that leads to destruction, and many
there be which enter through it."*

Matthew 7:13

THERE are many decisions a man will make during the course of his life, many choices to consider along his journey. Choosing the right path can reward with happiness and fulfillment. Choosing the wrong path can produce tragic consequences.

Up until just a few months ago, there was a literal fork in the road near the small community of Rose in southeastern Mayes County. Residents of this area were very familiar with it. It was located south of Highway 412 on the county line road bordering Mayes and Delaware counties. If you'd have traveled just past the first mile section south on NS 449, you'd have seen a large elm tree firmly anchored in the middle of the road.

Mayes county commissioners removed the aging tree in December 2003. Non of the locals seem to know why it was left standing in the first place.

While the tree is no longer present, the symbolism of this "parting of the ways" is still palpable, especially when you consider the very real tragedy that swept through this tiny community in the fall of 1897. This tragedy perhaps would have long been forgotten were it not for a silent reminder of the ominous events which remains today a little farther north on the same road.

Cloaked by trees and sitting several hundred feet east of the road is an amazing landmark that has defied time. One of nine such buildings constructed in the 1880's, the Saline (pronounced Say-leen) District Courthouse is the last of the old Cherokee Nation district courthouses still standing today.

A little history.....

Immediately following its transplant from the southeast states via the Trail of Tears in 1838, the Cherokee Nation reorganized with a constitution in the west under Principal Chief John Ross. Within a few years, the nation had divided into nine governing districts.

Saline District comprised portions of what are now Mayes, Cherokee, and Delaware counties and was centrally located in the Cherokee Nation. Spring Creek provided the southernmost border of the district along a route from near Chouteau (in the west) to near Oaks (in the east). Westernmost district lines followed Big Cabin Creek north to near Vinita. The eastern borders headed south from there through Spavinaw back down to the Oaks area, forming a nearly perfect pyramidal shape.

Other Cherokee districts included: Skin Bayou (later Sequoyah), Illinois, Flint, Canadian, Going Snake, Delaware, Tahlequah and Coo-wee-scoo-wee (the Cherokee name for Chief Ross).

The seat of local district government in the Saline District was moved several times between the years of 1841 and 1875 before settling into the location it currently occupies.

In 1883, Cherokee government enacted a law providing for the construction of a uniform set of courthouses in each of the nine districts. A sum of \$9,000 was budgeted for each, along with an extra \$1,000 for furnishing the buildings. The building as it sits today was constructed between the years 1884 and 1889.

Setting the stage....

Saline, as the community was generally called, was a busy place during the late 1800's. Court was held at Saline Courthouse at stated intervals and usually presided over by a judge from Tahlequah, the national capitol. In this way, minor cases, civil suits, or grand jury investigations were settled locally.

The legal activity at the courthouse was always a very popular refuge from the daily lives of many people. Some came to visit and some appeared as legal witnesses. Others were simply passing through the area on other business endeavors. Many of these folks would camp near the beautiful spring on the courthouse grounds and remain throughout the term of the court.

Naturally, such a place quickly became a community center. And since many of the Cherokees were well-to-do, business men were anxious to gain tribal permit and establish near them. Saline at one time had a large general store, a blacksmith's shop, a doctor, a church or two, and a school.

Arguably, the most important official or citizen in the Saline community was the sheriff. He was an elected official, and as such, was required to have Cherokee citizenship. His duties were set forth by the Cherokee Nation and included making arrests, holding prisoners until they could be taken to jail in Tahlequah, assisting in court, and generally keeping peace. His presence at any gathering generally insured quiet and order.

Beyond these requirements, the Cherokee district sheriff would have been popular, influential, dependable, and fearless.

In the fall of 1897, Jesse Sunday was completing a term as sheriff of Saline District. Elected to replace Sunday was his half brother, Dave Ridge. Both were married and had families and—by all accounts—educated, hard-working and honest citizens of the community.

The storekeeper was also an upstanding man. Alabama native Thomas Baggett, a white man, graduated from law school and moved into Indian Territory at the age of 25.

He met and married a woman of Cherokee descent with whom he purchased and operated the Saline store. The Baggett family occupied the living quarters above the establishment.

On September 20, the lives of Jesse Sunday, Dave Ridge, and Thomas Baggett were cut short by an individual or individuals whose journey through life had become consumed by malice and cowardice.

Bloody Monday...

As the story goes, Dave Ridge's wife, Callie, sent him to the store to pick up a few items on the day in question. Ridge stopped off en route for a few drinks with friends. By the time he made it to the store later that afternoon, Baggett had closed up shop, as was his custom when he considered it unsafe to remain open in anticipation of any disorderly conduct.

Knowing that Baggett was upstairs, Ridge began raising a ruckus at the door, requesting that the merchant re-open the store. Baggett raised the upstairs window and politely refused the request. It was at that point that a shot rang out from the barn or the blacksmith shop, striking Baggett in the face. He died within minutes of the injury.

Sometime later, on his way home from the episode, Ridge crossed paths with Sampson Rogers. An argument ensued over who had killed Baggett—Ridge accused Rogers of the deed—and Rogers struck Ridge with a weapon of some sort. Ridge died from the blow at some point during the night.

After hearing about Baggett's shooting, Sheriff Sunday departed Elm Prairie, some ten miles to the east, and headed toward Saline. He arrived and began his investigation around midnight at the Jim Techee home near the courthouse where he questioned John Colvard and Martin Rowe.

At some point during his investigation, Sunday was involved in a shootout and was struck by a bullet. Before he died, he told his family that Rowe shot him.

Rowe was immediately arrested and

When Sunday was buried. He was taken to Tahlequah, where he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to hang for the murder of the sheriff. His case was later reviewed and it was decided that there was considerable doubt as to who had actually shot the sheriff. Therefore, the sentence was commuted by Principal Chief Sam Mayes and the National Council, to ten years in the penitentiary at Tahlequah.

Three months after his incarceration, Rowe managed to escape. It was later reported that he went to Quannah, Texas, where he joined the U.S. Army in fighting the Spanish-American War. Following the brief conflict, it was said that Rowe returned to Oklahoma and made his home in Stilwell, some fifty miles from the scene of the tragedy at Saline.

A grand jury also convened for the indictment of Sampson Rogers in the brutal murder of Dave Ridge. Witnesses hesitated to testify against him, however, and he was freed.

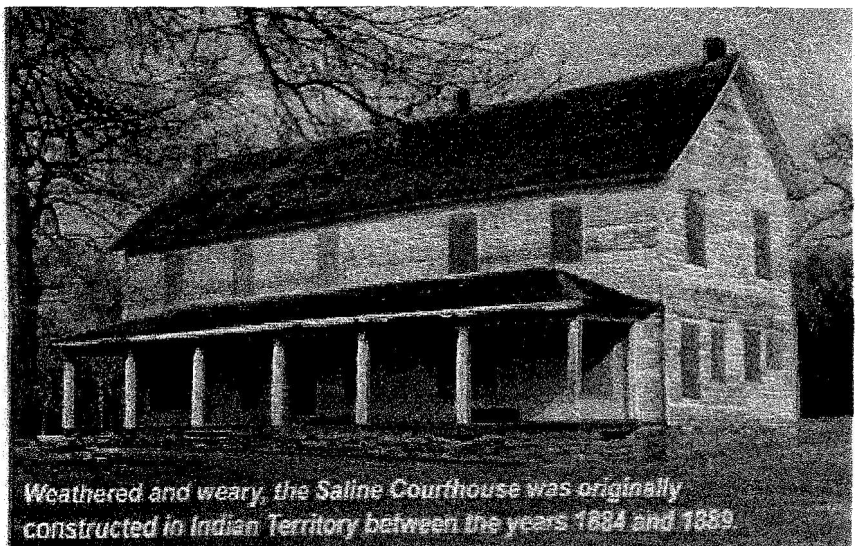
In remembrance...

Jesse Sunday and Dave Ridge were buried together at Elm Grove Cemetery, nearly two miles to the west of the Saline Courthouse. A newer monument was erected to mark their graves near the entrance of the cemetery. It is unknown where the body of Thomas Baggett was interred.

Back at the courthouse, a row of gravestones line the road near the entrance of the property. A beautiful spring of clear, cold water traverses the front lawn, bubbling through a creekbed lined with majestic natural rock formations. This active spring, referred to by some as "Big Spring," joins Snake Creek some distance away.

A springhouse—open-floored structure built atop a spring for the purpose of cold storage—still sits on the property. The bars in the window of the structure lend some credence to the rumor that the structure once doubled as a jailhouse for prisoners awaiting trial. Stories, true or otherwise, of the purported executions that took place here in carrying out Cherokee justice, are in no short supply.

Perhaps the reason the Saline Courthouse has endured so long is that some of its mysteries remain unresolved, its crimes unpunished. It stands as a silent sentry in these tranquil woods, awaiting justice that will never come.



Weathered and weary, the Saline Courthouse was originally constructed in Indian Territory between the years 1834 and 1850.

Area Indian Boundary Markers Oldest in State of Oklahoma

The Democrat, Thursday, April 10, 1988 page 3B

CHECOTAH — The Indian Treaty Boundary Line between the Creek and Cherokee Nations was surveyed and marked in 1833 by Captain Nathan Boone, the son of Daniel Boone. Capt. Boone was in command of a company of Dragons at Fort Gibson.

The first Creek Indians to immigrate from Mississippi in 1928-29 settled in the Three Forks area near Fort Gibson. Prior to the mass removal of Creeks and Cherokees in the late 1830's (Trail of Tears) was discovered that many of the early Creek settlers were living on Cherokee land. The boundary line had been established by the U.S. Government on paper maps, but there were no visible markers for the Indian settlers.

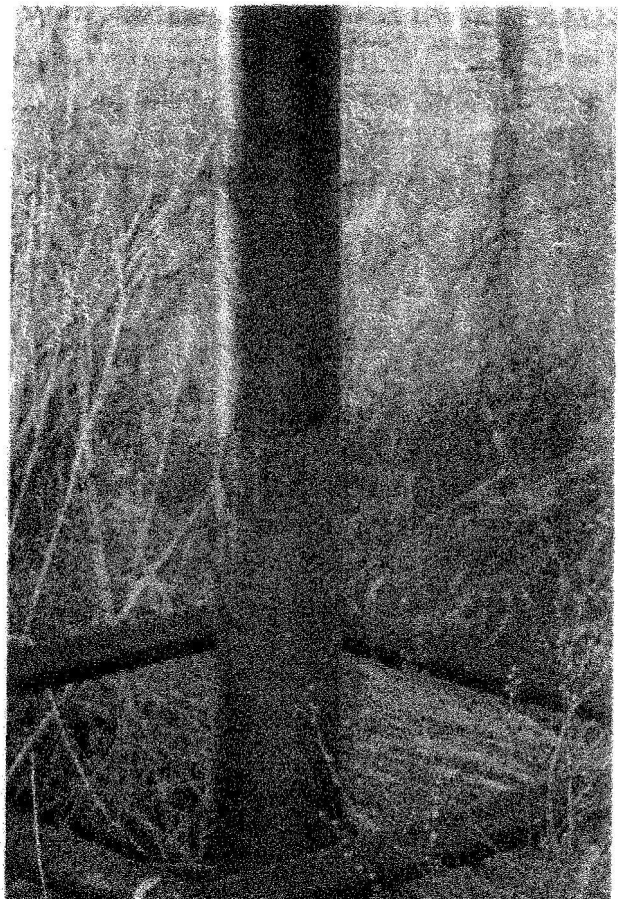
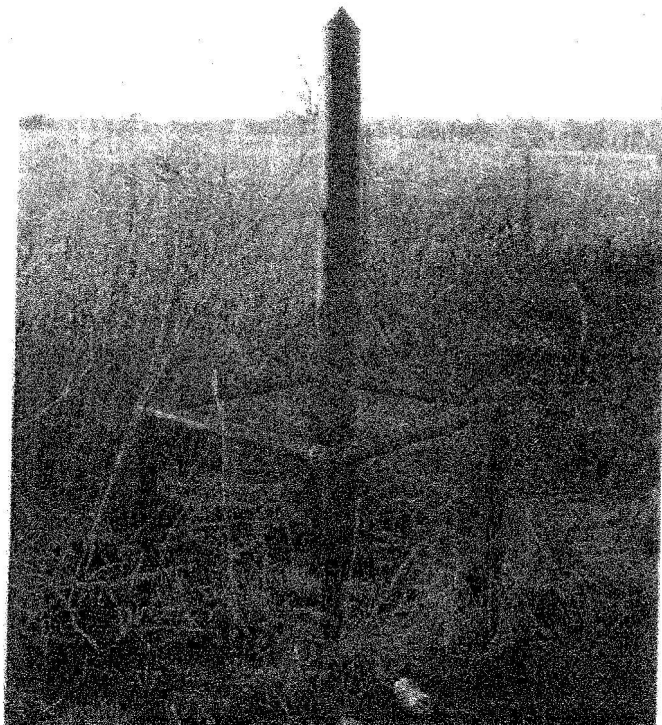
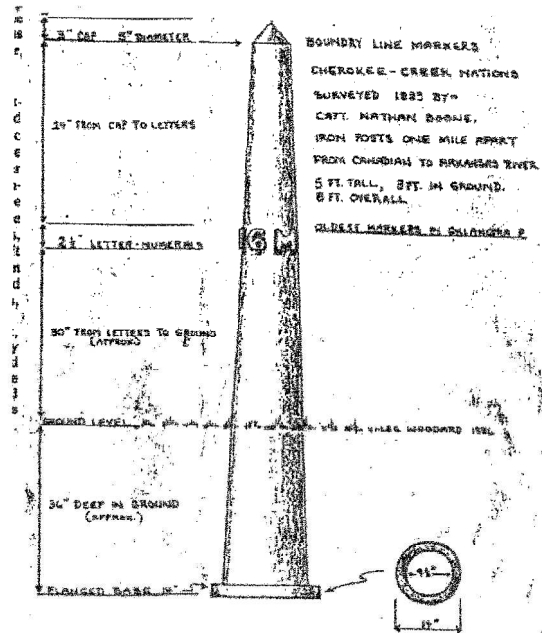
Marker # 19

Located 6 miles east of Checotah — Hwy. 266, then 5 miles north on Shady Grove Road, then west appr. 1/2 mile, South less than 1/2 mile on private property of Lorene Parks.



Marker # 14

Located 4 miles east of Checotah;
Hwy 266, then 1/10 mile north on west
Side of the road.



Indian Marker cont.

In 1833 Capt. Boone was given the task of surveying and marking the line between the Canadian River near North Fork Town and the Arkansas River near Fort Gibson, which makes these iron posts the oldest standing markers in the state of Oklahoma; they were there 30 years before the Battle of Honey Springs was fought; and the survey work may have been the first for Capt. Boone, who later did similar surveys in the state of Iowa in 1835. He surveyed the neutral strip separating the Sac and Fox from the Sioux, for which he became famous and the county and city of Boone, Iowa were named in his honor.

The iron markers on the Creek-Cherokee line have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Sites; each one is different because it is marked with

the mile number starting at the Canadian River. Landowners are asked to please leave the markers undisturbed; they are protected by state and federal laws, and they are only valuable when left standing on the spot where Captain Boone set them. Once removed and placed in a back yard or a museum, they lose all historical value.

Local historian and archeologist, Lee Woodard, will be doing survey work this spring mapping and photographing the markers on the line to determine how many are still standing. If you know of one that is out of place he can assist you in locating the exact spot to put it back. You may call him at 473-5681, for more information about the marker on your place, and make an appointment for mapping and photographing when he is in your area.

Chronicles of Oklahoma

Volume 4, No. 4

December, 1926

CAPTAIN NATHAN BOONE'S SURVEY CREEK-CHEROKEE BOUNDARY LINE

Grant Foreman

Page 356

A treaty was made in 1826 with a faction of the Creek Tribe known as the McIntosh Creeks, adherents of the chief who was killed for signing the treaty the year before agreeing to removal, which was not ratified. The treaty of 1826 with these people provided for their removal to the West with a stipulation that they might settle on any lands that they selected, and the government would give it to them. These Indians sent an exploring party West who selected the rich bottom land adjacent to the junction of the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers and by the summer of 1828. Congress made a treaty with the Cherokee Indians living in Arkansas providing for their removal west, which expressly gave them the land on which the McIntosh Creeks were located.

When the Cherokees began removing west, there was much complaint and irritation and even threats of disorder growing out of the contention between the Creeks and Cherokees over this very desirable land. The Creeks were particularly contentious about it because they had in good faith expended their labor in improving and building their homes upon it. They petitioned the President to appoint a commission to come west and adjust their difficulties.

A commission was appointed composed of Governor Montford Stokes of North Carolina, Henry L. Ellsworth of Connecticut and John F. Schermerhorn of New York. They arrived at Fort Gibson in the winter of 1832 and immediately entered into negotiations with the Creeks and Cherokees for an adjustment of their troubles. These negotiations resulted in two treaties on February 14, 1833, one between the United States and the Creeks, and the other between the United States and the Cherokees. They made an adjustment of the dispute and the boundary was agreed upon and fixed running from the Canadian at the mouth of the North Fork to the Arkansas opposite the mouth of Grand River.

Captain Nathan Boone, a son of Daniel Boone, had arrived

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at Fort Gibson in December, 1832, in command of a company of Rangers. After the negotiation of the treaty, Boone was employed by the commissioners to run the boundary line between the Creek and Cherokee tribes which he did during March and April of 1833. Boone had had considerable experience as a surveyor in Missouri as far back as the early part of the century and if he had not been so overshadowed by the name of his father he would have been known as a famous woodsman. He was relied upon by the Government for most exacting service in connection with expeditions into the Indian country as he was known to have a profound knowledge of woodcraft and the geography of the southwestern frontier. The field notes made by him of the survey of the creek-Cherokee boundary line copied herewith are on file in the Old Files Division of the Indian Office at Washington.

GRAND FOREMAN

CREEKS AND CHEROKEES

Capt. Boone's report of a survey of the boundary line between the Creek and Cherokee Indians, from the mouth of the north fork of the Canadian River to a point on the south side of Arkansas, opposite the mouth of Grand River — with a map accompanying the same. Survey made agreeably to instruction received from the Commissioners

of Indian Affairs West under Treaty with Creek Indians, February 14, 1833, at Fort Gibson.

Report received at Fort Gibson, April 17th, 1833.

**H. S. Stambaugh,
Secretary Comm.**

Page No. 1

Field Notes of a Survey of the boundary line between the Cherokee and Creek Tribes of Indians, agreeable to the late Treaty held at Fort Gibson —agreeable to the 2d article of said treaty.

Beginning on the north bank of the Canadian River and immediately where the north fork enters into the Canadian River, where planted a cedar post for the beginning corner from which a cottonwood 24 inches in diameter bears N 18 E 40 Links distant and a cottonwood 15 inches in diameter bears S 9 E 14 Links distant—Thence North.

Pages 358 – 364 continue Field Notes and his descriptions.

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I do certify that the forgoing field notes are correct and the Lines were marked and blazed agreeable to Instructions received from The Commissioners of Indian Affairs dated as Fort Gibson, March 25th, 1833 and that I Commenced the Running of the afore mentioned Lines on the 28th of March & completed the Survey on 9 April, 1833.

**Nathan Noone [sic]
Capt. U. S. Rangers**

Duplicate on file in office of Commissioners of Indian Affairs, Fort Gibson.

**S. C. Stambaugh
City Comm.**

Chronicles of Oklahoma
Volume 19, No. 4
December, 1941
NATHAN BOONE
Trapper, Manufacturer, Surveyor,
Militiaman, Legislator, Ranger, and
Dragoon.

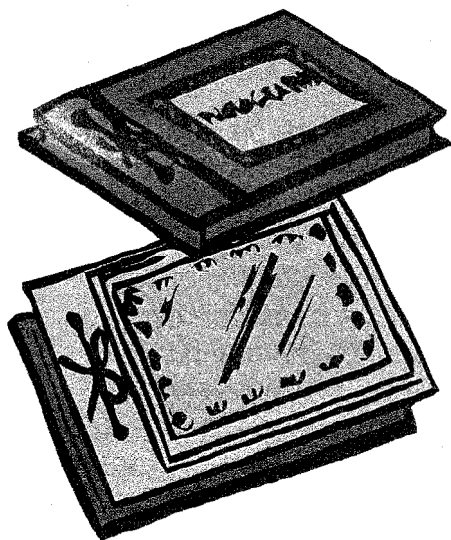
By Carolyn Thomas Foreman

Page 328

In command of a company of rangers Captain Boone arrived at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, November 22, 1832; his company and that of Captain Lemuel Ford were encamped during the winter of 1832-33 one and a half miles below Fort Gibson, on the opposite side of the river; the place was called Camp Arbuckle. While at Fort Gibson, Boone was employed by the commissioners to survey the boundary between the Creek and Cherokee nations during twenty-five days in March and April, 1833.

For this service from October 1, 1832, to September 30, 1833, Captain Boone received \$600 in Pay; for subsistence he was allowed \$292.00; for forage \$192.00; servant's pay \$60.93; servant's subsistence \$66.80 and servant's clothing \$27.50. From October 1, 1833, to September 30, 1834, fifty dollars was added to the Captain's pay; he was given \$96 more for forage and a substantial raise for his servant's pay, food and clothing.

PRESERVING MEMORABILIA



Any paper used in a scrapbook should be acid-free and buffered to increase the longevity of the paper placed atop it. It's especially helpful if the paper is both acid-free and photo-safe. Pieces such as newspaper articles or documents can be photocopied and displayed and the originals put into archival storage. To give documents and antiques a look, they can be photocopied onto newsprint or parchment paper. If you display the originals, use an archival mist to neutralize acids on the paper's surface, and place them into an archival-quality protective sleeve, preferably one made from polyethylene, polypropylene, or polyester (avoid PVC). Money and postcards can be put into a special sleeve that allows them to be viewed from both sides.

If you employ adhesives, they should be acid-free, photo-safe and not so soft that they bleed through the display or ooze out around it. Color and black and white photos should be treated the same way as antique documents, with an added caveat to keep them from heat, humidity, sunlight and pollution. It might be a good idea to scan the photos into the computer and archive the originals. If you do writing, use a pigment ink rather than a dye ink, as it lasts far longer.

Muskogee Daily Phoenix

Muskogee, OK Wednesday, April 24, 1912

DEATH CLAIMS CAPT. FREDRICK B. SEVERS A PIONEER CITIZEN

Is Taken as Noble Monument to Business Career Nears Completion.

WAS A CHILD OF THE CREEKS

Began as School Teacher and Pecan Merchant and Left an Estate of More Than a Million.

When death claimed Captain Frederick B. Severs yesterday morning at 8:30 it brought to a close one of the most useful careers of any man who has ever lived in the state of Oklahoma.

Had he lived but a few months longer he would have realized the ambition of his life when the Severs Hotel would be completed, and occupied as one of the most modern hotels in the Southwest.

Captain Severs was stricken with paralysis Wednesday morning and since that time has been growing weaker and weaker until yesterday morning death brought to a close his life of seventy-seven years, for the greater part spent in this state among the people who in return for his many noble deeds, rewarded him by making him one of them.

Captain Severs came to this country from his aid home in Arkansas when he had reached the age of seventeen taking up a home near Fort Gibson where he accepted a place in the general store in the little town owned by U. C. Dickinson.

When thirty-five years of age he married Miss Susie Anderson of Concharty, Indian Territory.

The life of Captain Severs was one of the romances of the Indian

country. He laid the foundation of his fortune more than fifty years ago shipping pecans by steamboat from Fort Gibson down the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, and exchanging them for dry goods with which he opened a general store at Okmulgee. He looked into the future and he died a millionaire.

The first venture as a trader was in pecans. He had Indians all the way from Deep Fork to Concharty picking pecans for him and these he assembled at Okmulgee, freighted them across to Fort Gibson and loaded them on a boat for St. Louis. There were approximately 6,000 bushels of pecans in that shipment. From that beginning his business grew until he became a merchant prince of the Creek nation, then a cattle king and for a quarter of a century one of the most powerful men in tribal affairs among the Creeks.

For several years he followed the mercantile business and then embarked in the cattle business. In 1890 he attempted to get an estimate of the number of cattle he owned. His men counted until they ran the figures up to 25,000 and then quit. He never did know how many cattle he owned at the time. By virtue of his citizenship as a Creek he secured a tribal concession which gave him the grazing privilege of the vast territory between the Deep Fork on the south to the Arkansas River on the north, and from Pecan Creek on the east to as far west as he wanted to go, which at that time meant the base of the Rocky Mountains. His ranch headquarters were at Bald Hill, and the magnificent ranch of 4,000 acres still owned by the estate is a part of the original grant. He lived at the ranch and gradually acquired large holdings both in Muskogee and Okmulgee, it was largely these that made him a millionaire at his death.

The first brick building erected in

Muskogee was built by this pioneer as the home for the First National Bank, the first bank ever established in Indian Territory. The bank is still in the same building and Captain Severs owned the building at the time of his death.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Susie Anderson Severs; three daughters, Mrs. Wm. J. Cook, Mrs. A. Z. English and Mrs. Mary Severs Owen, all of whom live in Muskogee. Four sisters also survive, being Mrs. W. A. Robb of Muskogee, Mrs. W. C. Trent of Muskogee, Mrs. Shields of Okmulgee and Mrs. Stark of Phoenix, Arizona.

The funeral will be held at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, from the residence on Terrace boulevard. Rev. O E. Goddard will officiate, and the following pallbearers will pay homage to the memory of their departed friend; Honorary pallbearers, C. W. Turner, Leo E. Bennett, Ex-Governor C. N. Haskell, J. C. Shanklin, of Okmulgee, Z. T. Walrond, Joseph Sondheimer, W. T. Hutchings, Sen. Robert L. Owen, P. B. Hopkins, S. M. Rutherford, and W. C. Jackson. The active pallbearers, W. N. Patterson, Joseph McCusker, N. F. Hancock, D. N. Fink, E. W. McClure, D. H. Middleton, M. R., Williams, and N. A. Gibson.

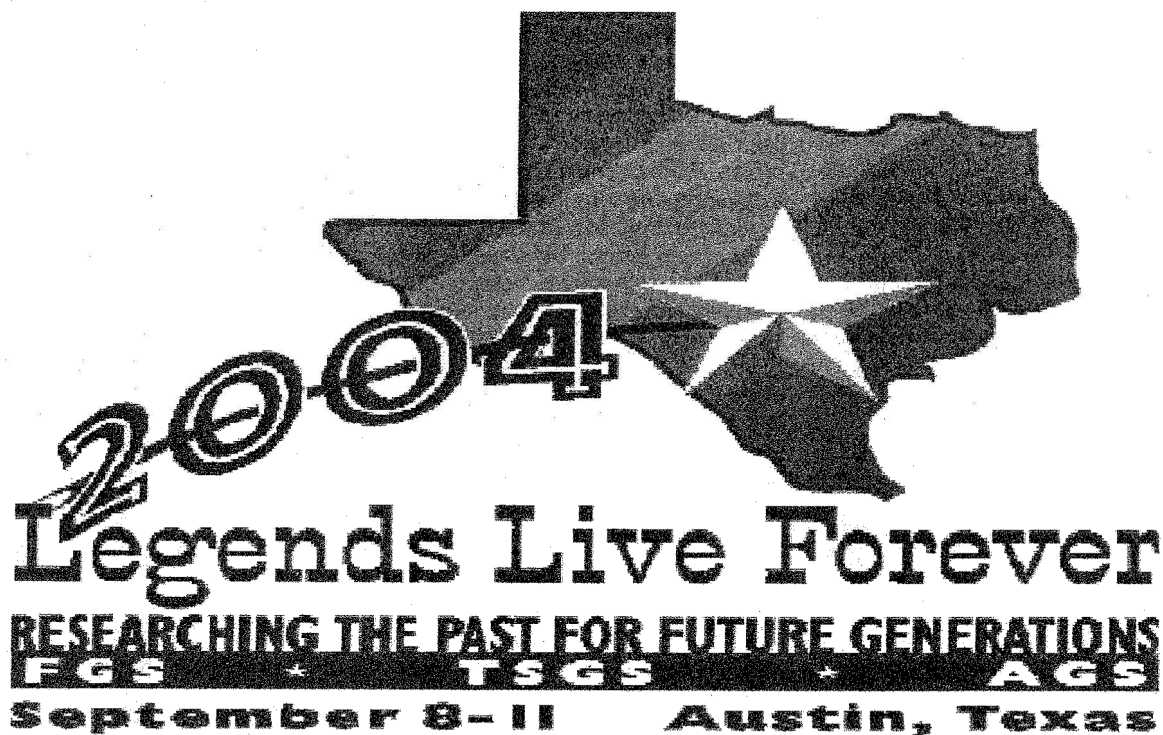
WILHALLA MESSENGERS



Federation of Genealogical Societies 2004 Conference

Austin, located in the heart of Texas, Austin is the site of the 2004 Federation of Genealogical Society's Annual conference "Legends Live Forever, Researching the Past for the Future Generation." This genealogical extravance will be held from 8 -11 September 2004, and will be co-hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Texas State Genealogical Society, and the Austin Genealogical Society.

The 2004 conference will be held at the Austin Convention Center. It is located in the heart of downtown Austin, between the shores of Town Lake and Historic Sixth Street. The center is located conveniently across the street from the conference hotel, the Hilton Austin Conference Center Hotel.



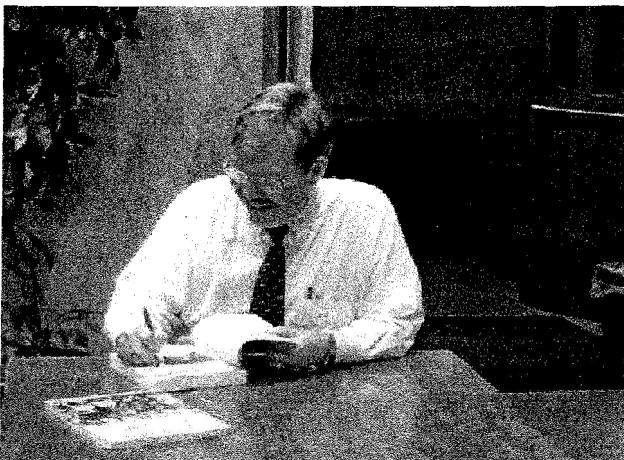
Let's Go Members!!

We can learn so much for our Society and have fun while doing it!
If you are interested in going to Austin, TX, for the FGS Conference email
the MCGS at: mucogeso@yahoo.com
Or Alissa Hill at alissann11@yahoo.com

George G. Morgan Seminar

Muskogee County Genealogical Society hosted George G. Morgan, author, columnist and professional genealogist on Saturday, March 27, 2004. If you didn't get to attend the seminar you missed a great experience. The seminar was held at NSU, Muskogee campus and was the perfect venue for the such an event. Mr. Morgan was very professional, knowledgeable and was very interesting to listen to. We had very good attendance for the seminar, people from all over the country came to listen to him. The society, along with the Muskogee Public Library are already planning for Mr. Morgan's return visit in March of 2006.

Mr. Morgan's new book "How to Do Everything with your Genealogy" debuted at the seminar. Hot off the press! The publisher of the book, McGraw Hill, shipped the first release of the book to Mr. Morgan, here, to our event. He saw the book for the first time, when he arrived. He was truly excited about seeing it. The society is planning a discussion group on "How to Do Everything with your Genealogy" on the third Monday of each month at 5:15 pm, at the Muskogee Public Library. Please contact the society if you would like to attend.



Left: George G. Morgan, signing the first copy of his new book "How to Do Everything with your Genealogy".

Right: George G. Morgan with the Muskogee Cty Gen Soc Board of Directors. Left to right: Ann Gardner, Barbara Downs, Sue Johnson, Alissa Hill, Diana Reasor, George Morgan, Sue Tolbert.



FYI's for Researching Native American Ancestors

By Stacy Blundell

During the period of Indian Removal beginning in 1831, extensive records were generated through the turn of the century when Southeastern Indians were uprooted from their homelands. They were taken west of the Mississippi River. These records relate to treaties, trade, land claims, removal to Oklahoma Territory, allotments, military affairs, military service and pensions, trust funds, and other activities. These records are considered by many to be one of the most useful resources for researching your Indian heritage. However, until you know where your ancestors first lived the rolls will be of no help to you. I've discovered a wonderful descriptive list of the rolls at <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/rolls.htm>.

Use these rolls as a timeline also to help in your research. Good Luck!!

RESERVATION ROLL 1817

Those applying for a 640 acre tract in the East in lieu of removing to Arkansas are listed in this roll. This was only good during their lifetime and then the property reverted back to the state.

[You can search this database by Surname.] *This is only an index of applicants. Most did not receive the reservation the requested.*

ARMSTRONG ROLL 1830

Under the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek the information called for the resolutions of the Senate of the 3rd of

March, in relation too the location of reservations under the treaty with the Choctaws of September 27th, 1830.

EMMIGRATION ROLL 1817-1835

This roll lists those who filed to emigrate to Arkansas country and after treaties in 1828 on to Oklahoma. These Cherokee became known as the Old Settlers after the Eastern Cherokee joined them in 1839.

HENDERSON ROLL 1835

This roll is a census of over 16000 Cherokee residing in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina to be removed to Oklahoma under the terms of the treaty of New Echota in 1835.

VALUATION LIST 1835

This list provides a list of the name of each owner of the improvement and the aggregate amount due him/her, as stated under the Cherokee treaty of December 1835.

ONEIDA INDIAN CENSUS 1838

This was a Census of the First Christian and Orchard Parties of Oneida Indians, residing at Green Bay, Wisconsin Territory, taken by Henry S. Baird, U.S. Commissioner, on November 15, 1838, under provisions of the Treaty of February 3, 1838.

OSAGE INDIAN CENSUS 1842

This census was taken for the purpose of an annuity payment. It was submitted by William Armstrong Acting Superintendent, Western Territory, 1842. Census lists a number, name, number of males and females and total numbers. Males and females are listed as under age of 10,

10-40, and over 40.

MULLAY ROLL 1848

This is a census of about 1517 Cherokee remaining in North Carolina after the removal of 1838. John C. Mullay took the census pursuant to an act of congress in 1848.

HA CUBBEES BAND

MUSTER ROLL of 1847

This is a muster roll of a party of immigrant Choctaw Indians of the Ha Cubbees Band who arrived at Fort Coffee, in the Choctaw Nation West, on the 23rd of June 1847.

MUSTER ROLL OF BIG BLACK RIVER BAND 1847

This muster roll details a party of immigrant Choctaw Indians, known as the Big Black River Band who arrived at Fort Coffee, in the Choctaw Nation West on the 10th of June 1847.

CHAPMAN ROLL 1851

The roll was prepared by Albert Chapman as a listing of those Cherokee actually receiving payment based on the Siler Census.

OLD SETTLER ROLL 1851

This roll is a listing of Cherokee, still living 1851, who were already residing in Oklahoma when the main body of Cherokee arrived in the winter of 1839, as a result of the Treaty of New Echota. Approximately one third of the Cherokee people at that time were Old Settlers and two thirds were new arrivals.

SILER ROLL 1852

This is a listing of those Eastern Cherokee entitled to a per capita payment pursuant to an act of

Congress in 1850.

ACT OF CONGRESS ROLL 1854

An Act of Congress of July 31, 1854 authorized the addition of 88 individuals whose names were omitted by Siler but who were included on the Roll prepared by Mullay.

DRENNEN ROLL 1852

This was the first census of the new arrivals of 1839. They were known as the New Echota Treaty Group.

COOPER ROLL 1855

This was a census roll of Choctaw families residing East of the Mississippi River and in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama made by Douglas H. Cooper, US Agent for Choctaw, in conformity with Order of Commissioner of Indian Affairs dated May the 23rd, 1855. [This database can be searched by surname or clan.]

SWETLAND ROLL 1869

This roll was prepared by S.H. Swetland as a listing of those Eastern Cherokee, and their descendants, who were listed as remaining in North Carolina by Mullay in 1848.

HESTER ROLL 1883

Roll was compiled by Joseph G. Hester as a roll of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in 1883. This roll also provides the Chapman roll number and English Indian name.

INDEX TO FINAL ROLL 1889-1914

This was the final roll for allotting the land and terminating the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Senator Henry L. Dawes was the commission's chairman, and consequently, the name Dawes is associated with the final roll.

Please note that if your ancestor was not living in Indian Territory at this time, they will not be listed on the Dawes Roll. [The database can be searched by tribe, census number and surname.]

MCKENNON ROLL 1889

This roll was proposed legislation for the Full-blood and identified Choctaws of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

WALLACE ROLL 1890

Roll of Cherokee Freedmen in Indian Territory created by Special Agent John W. Wallace. Individuals on this roll were entitled to share with the Shawnee and Delaware in the per capita distribution of \$75,000, appropriated by Congress in October 1888, and issued under the supervision of his office. [Database can be searched by name, age, and numbers.]

KERN CLIFTON ROLL 1897

This was a census of the Freedmen and their descendents of the Cherokee Nation taken by the Commission appointed in the case of Moses Whitmire, Trustee of the Freedmen of the Cherokee Nation versus the Cherokee Nation and the United States in the Court of Claims at Washington, D.C. The roll came about due to the Cherokee Nation disputing the number of freedmen included in the Wallace Roll. [Database can be searched by surname and district.]

CHURCHILL ROLL 1908

Roll was created by Inspector Frank C. Churchill to certify members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Roll includes a lot of information even

degree of Indian blood.

GUION MILLER ROLL 1909

Roll was compiled by Mr. Miller and lists all of Eastern Cherokee, not Old Settlers, residing either east or west of the Mississippi. This census was ordered by the Court of Claims as a result of a law suit won by the Eastern Cherokee for violations of certain treaties.

BAKER ROLL 1924

This was supposed to be the final roll of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The land was to be allotted and all were to become regular citizens of the United States. But the Eastern Band of Cherokees avoided the termination procedures, unlike their brothers in the western nation. The Baker Roll "Revised" is the current membership roll of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina.



Drawing by Joshua Blundell

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Hartness, Joe Interview Form A-(33-149) #12841
Pg. 278

Biography Form
Works Progress Administration
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Workers name Wylie Thornton

Report made on (date) January 27 1938

Name Joe Hartness

Post Office Address Hulbert, Oklahoma

Date of Birth: Month January Day 25 Year 1867

Place of Birth Murphy, North Carolina, in Cherokee County

Name of Father Marion Hartness Place of Birth North Carolina

Other information about father Died January 27, 1930, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Name of Mother Mary Ann James Place of Birth Cherokee County
North Carolina

Other Information about Mother Died at Eureka, Indian Territory, June 27, 1904

Note or complete narrative by field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to manual for suggested subjects and questions.

Number of sheets attached 5

Interview with Joe Hartness
Hulbert, Oklahoma

I was born January 25, 1867, near Murphy, North Carolina, on the Hiwassee River, a farmer's son, in very moderate circumstances. Murphy was a small inland town located near a large stream in the county of Cherokee, named so because of the large Cherokee Indian population along the river and surrounding hills.

Hartness, Joe

Interview

I lived on Father's farm in Cherokee County until 1882, then Father sold his farm and other possessions and moved us to Georgia, where we lived until October 1884. At that time, I left my parents in Georgia and accepted an offer by E. T. Wilson to pay my transportation to this country. I landed in Gibson Station on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad north of Muskogee.

Mr. Wilson hired a wagon to transport the Wilson family to Tahlequah, and I cannot forget that bad road we came over on our way to Tahlequah.

Mr. Wilson remained in Tahlequah but I got out into the country north and west of Tahlequah and procured employment on Uncle Coose Thompson's place at a salary of \$15.00 per month. I held that farm job for one crop season, and the next year, I purchased the Boiles place near Gideon and I remained on that place for several years.

I farmed on this place in a very crude way, sowed oats and harvested them with a hand cradle. I cut about four or five acres per day, and that, too, was real hard labor. I plowed my corn with a wooded beam double shovel, chacked my corn rows and plowed the corn three times, twice in one direction and only one time the other way, and I made corn running from forty to fifty bushel per acre.

We cooked our meals in the fireplace as we had no cook stove and our dining table I made myself. I had quite a fight to keep wild vermin and game from eating up my stuff out of the field. Squirrels, coons, and turkeys are the worst pests of all, deer came into my field and ate my beans and garden up, and ate my corn after it got into roasting ear size.

My hogs and cattle increased faster than I could keep up with the increase, but there was very little market for such stock.

I was married in the year of 1888 to Hattie Walker, I obtained the marriage certificate from a country preacher. He just got a piece of white paper and lead pencil and wrote the marriage certificate himself, and after performing the ceremony, he got a couple of witnesses to sign their names in the corner of this sheet of paper.

When I first arrived in Tahlequah in 1884, there were about two or three stores and about eight residences.

Hartness, Joe

Interview

Joel B. Mayes was Chief of the Cherokee Nation at that time. When he became ill, he was living upstairs over a hotel. Chief Mayes who weighed two hundred and seventy pounds, died and I helped to bring his body down by way of the upstairs porch as it was impossible to bring it down the winding stairway, on account of his size. Some of the suggested we take his body out of the box and drag it around the curve of the stairs, then put it back in the coffin after we got it downstairs, but others protested that it would be a shame to the Nation to do such a thing with the body of a national figure who had been Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Some of the men who were identified with the Sheriff's office in Tahlequah in 1886 to 1888 were: George Rooch, Dick Roffins, Jeff Robbins, Whitie Starr, Jack Rider, Sam Manoa, Saope Manoa, Boot Pigeon, Jess Pegeon, Jack Ellis, and Charley Starr was high sheriff. Allan Ross, who was the Clerk of the Cherokee Court, was the father of Bob Ross. The next court clerk was Tom Triplett, who was later killed by John Sharp while Tom was our Sherriff. At that time, Albert Taylor was the first deputy under Tom Triplett.

My father was Marion Hartness and my mother was Mary Ann James Hartness. Father died January 27, 1930 in Tahlequah. Mother died June 27, 1904. Both were born in North Carolina and in Cherokee County.

I worked some in timber out here on Fourteen Mile Creek in the years 1885-1886 and also observed some nice timber in Pumpkin Hollow during the same years. I found Water Oak trees and also Red Oak that were eight feet in diameter, which were clear cut with a flaw, running from twenty-five to thirty feet in height.

Buck Richard was the saw man for the Bill Ballard mill, land Jeff Hicks, the saw man for the Sam William's Mill; both these mills ran steadily with full crews in Pumpkin Hollow, which is about eight miles east of old Tahlequah. The best known citizen living in that Hollow, I suppose, is N.W. Ross, better known as "Biscuit" Ross.

These mills sold first class pine lumber, without a flaw or a small knot for \$.75 per load. There were about a million feet of lumber junked just because it happened to have a small knot or a flaw.

I have gathered corn out of a field right where the little town of Hulbert is now situated, when the man who pioneered the settling and clearing out of the timber for the field still owned the land. His name was Uncle Ben Hulbert.

The Cherokee's used two kinds of poison to kill their fish for their big picnics or fish fries, as they called them. One was buckeye roots and the other black gum berries. Both of these poisons were very effective fish poisons and yet did not harm stock of any kind.

Lassoing a Horsethief

By Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

RootsWeb Review: Roots Web's Weekly E-zine
Vol. 7, No. 9, 3 March 2004, Circulation: 872,992+
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We all laugh about finding a horsethief in the family, but the possibility is not as remote as some think. My online adventure started with a search in one of the recently uploaded user-contributed databases. You might have overlooked it when it was announced in the RootsWeb Review on 18 February, but having discovered a purported relative who was listed in the Leavenworth, Kansas penitentiary at the time of the 1910 census, I decided to do a search in this database.

Kansas, Leavenworth County, Leavenworth federal prisoners, 1895-1911, 7506 records; 1911-1920, 8,337 records; Staff and volunteers of the Central Plains Branch, National Archives <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/groups/>

Alas, or yahoo! — depending on your feeling about finding a jailbird perched upon your family tree — I discovered two of them. Here's how: at the webpage here: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/groups/> I typed in the surname of interest (skipped the optional first name because I wanted to find everyone of this surname), selected KS (any county) in the State/County (optional) window, and under the Group/organization (optional) window, selected Leavenworth (KS) Federal Prisoners. A match for my query appeared and under the Notes/PostEms option, I clicked on VIEW/ADD NOTES, which revealed the name, year, the fact that it was a civilian (rather than military) case, the 1905 date, the jurisdiction was Indian Territory, the offense was larceny, plus it gave a record number, and under photograph, it says "true" (meaning there is one available)

I followed the instructions that are provided with each successful search, which say: A copy of this record is available at the National Archives regional office in Kansas City

NARA's Central Plains Region
2312 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3011

Mail orders must include the prisoner's case number and name. The archives' staff will write back with cost of copying the record — DO NOT send money until you have received confirmation from them on the cost.

Since Leavenworth was a federal prison, don't assume your ancestor might not have served his time there based just on locality. Many prisoners were from Indian Territory, Missouri, Illinois, Texas, and North Dakota, for example, but some are listed from Washington, DC, and there's even a military prisoner from Philippine Islands, who was sent there for disobeying orders. Crimes range from murder, assault, and grand larceny to stealing mail pouches, housebreaking, theft of interstate shipment, and violating national banking laws.

The entire process took about two weeks and each file cost me about \$10. Both had pictures of my less-than-illustrious relatives along with additional valuable genealogical information. Guess this will teach me not to laugh at my spouse's sheep-stealing Irish ancestors who were shipped off to Australia.

Grant Foreman Room

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