

"Can't go it", and he wouldn't "go it" until the preacher made his meaning clear. He was a deacon in the Presbyterian Church before he came out here and served as deacon in the Presbyterian Church at Park Hill until his death. He translated portions of the prophecies of Isaiah into Cherokee. In 1826 George Lowrey and David Brown were appointed to translate the laws and the New Testament into the Cherokee Language.

While still a young man he was sent on a dangerous mission to Canada. On this journey, on foot, through the unknown forested he encountered wild beasts and unfriendly Indians but by his shrewd skill and ingenuity he was able to accomplish his mission successfully and return home safely. He was one of the Cherokee delegation that visited President George Washington at Philadelphia in 1791. The purpose of this delegation was to urge the Federal Government to pay an annuity that had been promised the Cherokees by the Treaty of 1785.

At about the age of twenty he married Lucy Benge. She proved to be a very worthy woman, skilled in the art of homemaking, and was an encouragement to her husband in all the things he tried to do for his people. They lived a long and happy life together. They were the parents of ten children. She died six years before he did.

The story is told of Lowrey that upon one occasion when he was a delegate to Washington he listened to a speech by a member of Congress denouncing the Indians and charging them, among other things, with living on roots, wild herbage, and disgusting reptiles. It happened that Lowrey boarded at the same hotel with the speaker and other members of Congress and at the dinner table he called to the waiter in a loud voice to bring him some of those roots (referring to the sweet potatoes), then added: "We Indians are very fond of roots; these are the kind of roots we live on."

George Lowrey was a second cousin of Sequoyah. He was among the first to whom Sequoyah demonstrated his invention of the Cherokee alphabet and, although suspicious at first, when convinced of its authenticity, he was quick to see the advantage of the invention and to give it his unqualified endorsement. He was on the committee to select and prepare the inscription for the silver medal that was awarded to Sequoyah by the Cherokee Nation. He of course could speak English though he was never proficient in its use and always preferred his native tongue.

Lowrey was captain of one of the Light Horse companies appointed to enforce the laws of the Nation in 1808 and 1810; a member of the Committee organized in 1814; and one of the delegation that negotiated the Treaty of 1819 in Washington. This is the treaty by which about one-third of the Cherokee people moved to western Arkansas. This treaty is also significant in that it made, for the first time, provisions for an educational fund for the Cherokee Nation.

Colonel John Lowrey and his brother George both fought in the war