

Each board member was to visit the school in his district at least one a year, aid the teacher in maintaining discipline and make careful survey to see that all schools were located according to need. In 1902, there's about forty-five schools in each area, each district, and numerable communities to be checked, see if conditions were such that it would warrant new schools. These coupled with their other duties kept the board members attune to the educational conditions of the Nation for fact serve to elate or elevate the Cherokee school above those of any other tribe. In fact, the records pretty well indicate that by 1898, National Board was keeping a close watch over all phases of tribal education. Many times teachers were called in to inspect for failing to properly discharge their responsibilities. Minutes of the Board contain a large number of teachers discharged because of drunkenness and mal-practice. Even the Superintendents of the Academy were used, being called up to explain certain discrepancies, to straighten out their accounts. So numerous were such instances of the Board's mentions and it would require a sizeable volume just to enerate these without any explanation at all, that the hand of the Cherokee Board were relatively free from politics in such manners, indicated that practice of step-daughter of J.R. Buffington, powerful Buffington family, was denied entrance into the Female on the grounds that she was not entitled to attend. In pressing his case, Buffington wrote: "I don't understand why my step-daughter was denied entrance aboard. She's here, she has the money, she's part of my family, and I think she has the right to. We have the right to send her to the Cherokee school." Now, she was not admitted. You see, politics was not as strong as it would seem, maybe not as strong as 1969. Then John D. Benedict arrived in Tahlequah, in 1898. He and the supervisor for the Cherokee Nation, Benjamin S. Calpot (?). We hadn't mentioned him