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Interview with Hon. John A. Jacob,
Creek Indian of Holdenville.

Mr. Jacob was born in the Wewoka District, now known as Hughes County. His grandfather and great-grandfather came from Alabama. His father, Frank Jacob, was born in 1839, on Honey Creek near Checotah.

His grandfather was of Irish descent and was an Indian trader and had a trading post three miles north of Checotah. He had groceries and a few clothes. Most people made their own clothes in those days.

After the death of John's grandfather, a great-uncle came out and took charge of the trading post. He soon had spent everything, leaving the grandmother without anything and there being no law to protect her property, she had to let him have everything. Then the grandmother, Lillie Jacob, came and settled near Ft. Holmes in 1841, bringing Frank Jacob, who was then two years old, and two other boys, William and John.

Their mother spun the thread, wove it into cloth and made belts and just whatever she could to support her three children.

Ft. Holmes was established in 1831 or 1832. Then the Government stationed guards there to

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protect the Indians. They were in two or three companies of 300 men and there Frank Jacob, father of John, learned to speak English from the soldiers.

About this time a bunch of Osage Indians came down from Kansas and were planning to steal some of the Indians ponies, so the Creeks made charge on them, killing about twenty of them. The Hill where the battle was fought is about six or eight miles west of Ft. Holmes and is known as the Osage Hill. They would scalp the other Indians.

Frank Jacob served in the Civil War. The last two years he was on the Southern side and his family went South into Texas.

At the beginning of the War there was quite an epidemic of smallpox and several hundred people died.

When the folks started South, Mr. Jacob's aunt was riding horseback and as they passed a house she saw two small children out in the yard. She went in and found their mother lying on the bed dead. She had been dead two or three days. She had had the smallpox. The aunt put the two children on the horse behind her and took them with her as the children had no one

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to care for them. She left the body on the bed.

They had no time to take care of it.

Frank Jacob helped to capture seventeen supply wagons that were being taken to the Northern Army. They took the wagons to where the people were located and issued the food and clothing to the people. Another time they captured a supply ship on the Arkansas River and also brought the supplies back to headquarters to their people. Then another time they took several head of Government mules and swam them across the Arkansas River and brought them back to the Indian Territory.

John A. Jacob is a man of advanced thoughts and action. From his earliest manhood he has been prominent in the affairs of both the whites and Indians. He and his father were instrumental in the location of the town of Holdenville, which was built on John Jacob's claim, and from the infancy of the town he has taken an active part in everything pertaining to the city's welfare. He has been active and liberal in business circles in the town, always broadminded, working for the progress and welfare of the whole country.

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Though active in business, he has found time to devote to the affairs of his tribe. He has for years been an officer and counselor. In 1894, he was elected tribal attorney for the Wewoka District and distinguished himself therein protecting the public domain from unlawful grazing uses and being demuded of valuable timber. In 1890, he was elected to the Creek Senate from Tuk-a-bathee Town, where he served for two terms, increasing his popularity. And in 1893, he was nominated for the second chief, on a ticket, the slogan of which was 'the reopening of the rolls to new born children and the complete distribution of the land among the citizens.' He ran a strong race though defeated; but later he was elected as a Tuck-abathee legislator to the Creek Council, where he was instrumental in procuring a reopening of the rolls to all new born children, up to the 25th of May, 1905.

As an Indian officer and citizen he has been on many prominent committees and commissions, requiring of him varied services in all of which he has borne himself with honorable distinction.

There is nothing left of Ft. Holmes but just a

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cement slab which is located in the N. V. Bilby home,
and the Government bridge across Little River.

William Roberson, a blacksmith, tore down the
old Government bridge and used what was left in his
shop. There are no signs of any graves of soldiers
who were buried there or of the old trading post
which was located near the bridge.