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ADAIR, JOHN MARTIN, Cherokee

Office Interview.

Mr. Adair is an old veteran Rough Rider, was born at Ft. Gibson in 1858. During the Civil War the Adair family together with Clem and Mary Rogers, parents of Will Rogers, went to Bonham, Texas. While there Mrs. Adair taught school. They returned to Ft. Gibson the latter part of 1866. Cholera broke out in Ft. Gibson in 1867 and the Adair children were sent to Tahlequah where they spent an entire summer with Aunt Katie Daniels, an aunt of Martin Brown. Mrs. Adair at this time was a widow, Mr. Adair having died and was buried at the old home at Ft. Gibson. The children enjoyed their stay at Tahlequah where they played and swam in the branch, stole watermelons and had a good time in general.

Mr. Adair's grandfather's first wife was a Pettit. His own grandmother was a Gunter, Her home was in Ft. Gibson along side that of Henry Leigs and George C. Saunders; was later owned by John Scott. For a time during the war Mr. Adair's family were forced to live at their grandparents place/while their own home was occupied by Major Kimball/as quarters.

Mr. Adair's mother was born in Alabama at Gunter's landing. John Schrimsher also was born here. Bettie Schrimsher was the mother of Clem Rogers.

Some of the old settlers of this country came up to the mouth of Bayou Menard in 1833--the Hendricks, Beaties, Paris, and Terrells. They camped for a day or two before picking out places to build their homes. Around Ft. Gibson was good country with fine springs and these families settled in what was known as the Woodal settlement.

Two of the old pioneer homes at Ft. Gibson were the Coody and Thompson places. Both houses were made of logs. The Coody house was a story and a half with double fireplace; one up and one down-stairs. This is now owned by Albert Anderson; the Thompson place by Doctor Waterfield.

Sarah Coody's place was southeast of Ft. Gibson, about two and one-half miles from the Arkansas River, and one-half mile from the Thompson place on Bayou Menard. Both Mrs. Coody and Mrs. Thompson bought whiskey in barrels out of Little Rock. This was brought up ^{the Arkansas River} to the mouth of Bayou Menard, loaded on wagons and taken to their homes where they sold it. These were pretty rough times. Men came to these houses, turned their horses in the pasture, ate, danced, and drank until they ran out of money, then moved on. Sarah Coody's dinners and suppers were known far and wide. These were not hangouts for gangsters, but just places to drink and carouse. Whiskey was not obtainable in bottles at this time. A group of men would buy a half-gallon cup and go out somewhere and drink it, coming back for another and another until they had spent all their money. Mrs. Coody was an aunt of Henry Meigs. Later she took her wagons and money and went to California with one of the trains going West.

Jack and Tim Walker were two inhabitants of these places. J. A. Walker was the first husband of old Aunt Georgie Scott who was famed as one of the best dancers of this country. Aunt Georgie's mother was a Lacey. It is said that Aunt Georgie was a very good looking woman in her early days.

Wash Hinson of Braggs, Oklahoma, was also an inhabitant of these places. He was a "race-horse" man. Horse races were run on a one-quarter mile straightway out on the Colston Place one-fourth of a mile from Ft. Gibson. Tom Andrews' mother, Aunt Mariah Colston also sold whiskey. She would attend these races and bet her money on the horses, sometimes having her apron full of money.

(An old road went by the Thompson place leading to Ft. Smith. Crossed the Bayou Menard at a shallow rocky ford.)

Submitted by John Martin Adair in an office interview with Mr. Foreman February 2, 1937.

K.