Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

 \mathcal{G}

12006.

Elizabeth Ross, Investigator, Jan. 24, 1958.

> Interview With John M. Adsir, Tahlequah. Oklahoma Route 2.

The residence of Dennis W. Bushyhead, for eight years principal chief of the Cherokee Mation, was at Fort Gibson; the house had been built in the early days of the fort and was during a considerable period a Covernment building. Besides other commanding officers of the military post, Brigadier General William Belkmap once occupied the house, which was built of hewn logs and was well finished throughout; a large stone shimney cerried away the smoke.

As commandant of the military post General Belknap
was there several years before the abandonment of Fort
Gibson by the Government in 1857. After the removal of
the Carrison to another post the houses and grounds reverted
to the Charokee Nation and various Charokee citizens became
owners of houses which had been erected by the United States.

Dennis W. Bushyhead, who returned to the Cherokee
Nation from California in 1867, acquired the former headquarters building and occupied it as a home until a number

12806.

-2-

permanent residence. The house stood on a high bank of the Grand River; at the time, the grounds were well-shaded with trees and there was a smooth and grassy lawn. The old building stood for a number of years after the removal of Principal Chief Bushyheed to Tahlequah and was finally destroyed by fire.

It has been said that the early day Fort Gibson postoffice was probably maintained for awhile in the old commanding officers building for a large hole had been chiseled
through a walnut log in a wall of the house and through
this opening letters are believed to have been dropped into
a receptable within the room.

East of the old building lay the parade grounds, and in a period preceding the outbreak of the Civil War by a number of years, many of the smaller houses in which the soldiers had their quarters yet stood.

After leaving Fort Gibson for one of the other Indian Territory military posts, General William Belknap died a few years before the beginning of the eighteen-sixties.

12806.

-3-

Several years after establishing his home in Fort Gibson, Dennis W. Bushyhead was elected Cherokee national treasurer, a position he held eight years, later he was elected Principal Chief.

A Cherokee Indian soldier who died in the vicinity of the old building was reputed to have hidden a sum of money near the house and for a number of years many persons sought to find the money. All failed, but when the Ozark route of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway was being built in 1902, some Oreck workmen are related to have found a considerable sum in an excavation and immediately gave up their employment and left the country.

A mound of earth and seathered stones now indicate the site of the old heedquarters building.

Mrs. Eloise Bushyhead, age seventy-eight or seventy-Mne, widow of Chief Bushyhead, also furnished a part of the above information. -Elizaqeth oss, Investigator.