

In an issue of THE TELEPHONE dated April 25, 1888 there appeared a write up about the laying of the corner stone of the Cherokee Female Seminary. Many notables were present. The day threatened to be rainy, but cleared up in mid morning, and "not a pleasure or a lady's bonnet was spoiled". Editors of newspapers from Ft. Gibson, Muskogee, Webber Falls, Vinita, and other towns were in attendance. Rev. J. F. Thompson filled the position of chaplain for the ceremonies. Honorable recognition was given to Stapler, Thompson, and Morgan who were on the building committee of the Cherokee Nation. The large stone blocks and stacks of bricks in the front of the construction were used as seats by the audience. In the same newspaper was an article about a dog that watered horses at the livery stables of Cyrus Sturdivant of Ware. This 65-pound dog could sit on the driver's seat of a wagon holding the reins in his mouth and paws and drive the team. This dog knew the name of every horse owned by his master and cared for them well. The dog would, on the order of his master, go get any horse named from the stable and take it to water. He could untie the halter rope, lead the horse to the water trough, and return the horse to its proper stall. Among other items in the August 23, 1889 newspaper, mention was made that Silas Tecumseh was fined \$15. and sentenced to one hour in jail for selling whiskey. The officialdom of that day strongly opposed the traffic in evil spirits in the Cherokee Nation, and enforced measures to keep its sale and use under control. James Moore also made the front page where it was told that he was arrested and charged with stealing mail. Joe James, Cecil Nair, L. W. Renolds, and Ne-le-donn were honored with a couple paragraphs pertaining to their forthcoming trial on a charge of assault to kill. The heart of James Spaniard was made glad, it was written, when he learned that the President of the U. S. had telegraphed Judge Parker at Ft. Smith that a reprieve of 30 days had been granted, postponing the date for his hanging. Also Walker, a negro, was granted a few extra days before his hanging, and he too was "just glad".

Consumer credit was widely used in the days thirty or more years before statehood, as evidenced by an old record book of Levi Keys, the first entry of which was in 1872. The record book contained goods sold from the Wauhatchau Store on credit, payment records, and purchase accounts. Mrs. Wilhite tells that many accounts were paid off with a cow or horse, or with corn and wheat. She recalls when people would come to the Store to trade and camp down near the springs on nearby Caney Creek and stay two or three days. Also she remembers seeing travelers in big wagons come thru and stop at the store on their way to California and the western country. Many of the wagons would have a cow or two tied to the back of the wagon. Wauhatchau Store was on the main road from Ft. Smith to Ft. Gibson. At one time there was a post office at Wauhatchau and Mr. Wilhite recalls that Willie Bates was one of the mail carriers, riding from Evansville, Arkansas to Tahlequah, C. N. and back. Most of the mail carriers in those days rode horse back, as the roads were too rough for buggies or hacks then.

Mrs. Wilhite's maternal grandparents were of the Keys family, and had settled at Wauhatchau long before the Civil War. When that war broke out everybody suffered. The Cherokee Nation was divided and it was hard to tell friend from foe. The Keys moved out and went south to live on Boggy River and in Texas until the war was over. The Keys home was spared the ravages of burning, and they returned home in 1866 to start anew. The old Keys home ~~home~~ still has bullet holes in its walls from Civil War days. This old three room log house is still sturdy for its age. Mrs. Wilhite has one room of it fixed to live in and goes there often to enjoy the atmosphere of a time 70 or 80 years ago. She says she sleep there during stormy weather.