

in those early days the Indians had to rely on their ingenuity and resourcefulness. The ability to be house builders, blacksmiths, stone cutters, artists, or any of the skills seem to come to the Cherokee as if a gift.

Indian beliefs, customs and practices are a natural part of the everyday life and existence of this people. The black, yellow, brown, and white races of humankind each have their peculiarities and attendant beliefs and customs. So it is with the American Indian. Defying explanation and description, it is no secret that the Indian does have many beliefs strange and foreign to his brothers of another color. One of these is the belief in and practice of conjure. Mr. Dry tells of the father of the Wickliff boys, Cherokees who were driven to become outlaws by the arrogance and stupidity of white lawmen. Old man Wickliff was known to be able to locate the whereabouts of any lawmen looking for his sons and without ever leaving his home or receiving information for another. This strange command of an unnatural power permitted him to keep his boys informed. Again, he tells of his mother whose strange powers could produce 'ghosts' when the occasion demanded. He recalls when a small boy, they were at home one night and he was afraid of something. His mother told him to stop crying or a witch would come by. He kept crying, and out of nowhere a huge white dog with hair reaching to the ground appeared, then walked on out the door. He quit crying. He says lot of people would not believe these things, but he has seen them and does believe. Long ago he had a neighbor, Charley Hughes, a full blood Cherokee, who was very good as a practicing conjurer. Sometime back in the days of the Cherokee Nation, Mr. Dry recalls a little village the Indians called Daytown. Although nothing remains today of this early settlement, it was a popular gathering place for Indian meetings,