

He recalls going to Tahlequah with his father in the days before statehood. He says he will never forget seeing the Federal prisoners chained to trees in the Capitol Courthouse square. It seems the prisoners were brought in from different parts of the Cherokee Nation and assembled here for transporting to the Federal Jail at Ft. Smith. Of course, when the weather was bad the prisoners were kept in the Cherokee Nation Jail. He recalls seeing the iron barred windows and the specially built wagon used to haul prisoners from Tahlequah.

In addition to attending school at Double Springs, Daniel also attended the Baptist Mission at Tahlequah, Haskell Institute, and the Cherokee Male Seminary. After that he says he got married and 'missed out on everything'. He recalls that the Baptist Mission was a large school where many of its 200 or so students boarded there. This institution was located just southwest of where the state college is now and on the hill above the big springs. In the northeast part of what is now Tahlequah, there was a little school around 1900 called Dogtown school which Daniel attended for a short time. A Miss Bushyhead and a Miss Wiley were teachers at this little school when he went there.

Back in the early days of Tahlequah, Daniel remembers seeing the water wagon going about town. He does not remember the name of the colored man who drove the wagon and sold water for ten cents a barrel. Of the colorful old Negroes of the early days at the Cherokee Capitol was a freedman of the John Ross family, known as Stick Ross. Stick's home was about a mile west of the old Cherokee Male Seminary on what was known as Stick Ross Mountain.

In the years Daniel was around Hultert, he remembers when all of the town on the west side of Double Springs Creek. When the Frisco put in its railroad and depot, the town began movement to the higher ground on the east side of the Creek where it has built up as we know it now. Chaney and Parker were the first men to put in a store on the east side of the creek. A man by name of Hill also put in a store there where he bought cotton and grain to ship out on the railroad.

Early day circuses and tent shows recently came to Muskogee. Daniel recalls the days when people from Tahlequah and the surrounding country would load down the trains to stalling room only, all going to see the big shows. He used to go down to the depot at Hultert to see the trains go through.

An important part of the Indian life is their meetings, stomp dances, or what ever the occasion. In this way they met old friends, renew acquaintances, and make new friends. The Indian preachers and ministers are always an important part of all these meetings. Prominent Cherokee preachers of fifty and sixty years ago were the Rev.s Dick Manus, Oldfield, Butler, Cummins, Jim Kingfisher, Jim Pickup, and others.

In the days before statehood and when the Cherokee Nation stood on its own works and merits, the Interpreter figured importantly in Cherokee affairs. Daniel recalls that some of these men were Richard Glory, Swake Roach, George Benge, Levi Grits, Simon Walkingstick, Houston Teehee. Mr. Teehee was also one of the trained Cherokee lawyers, as was Mr. Walkingstick.