

Chauncey C. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: John F. Parris, Tahlequah, Okla.

"My father was Green Parris. My mother's name was Jane Hendrix Parris. They came to Oklahoma over the trail of tears in 1838.

"I first went to school at Woodall. Bill Fields and Bill Ballentine were my first teachers. When I was 17 years old, I went to work at the "Cherokee Advocate". My bosses were Dan Ross and E. C. Boudinot. I worked for 15 years. I quit in 1894. George Butler rented the press and in 1896, Waddie Hudson leased it. It was later sold to a man in Ft. Gibson.

"My father served in the Civil War. I set type for the "Cherokee Advocate" for 13 years and ran the press for 2 years. Eli Pumpkin ran the press by turning a large crank and I fed the press. Will Sevier set type. George Tafford set the Cherokee type. The press just printed on one side of the paper. After they got a larger press, they could print both sides of the paper at the same time.

"I farmed and worked as a section hand for the Frisco Railroad. My last work was as janitor at Hulbert High School.

"I saw eight men hanged at the old Cherokee jail. I worked as guard at the jail. I was guard there when Bill Cook was in jail."