

PADGETT, JAMES R.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

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PADGETT, JIM.. SECOND INTERVIEW. #12458.

Hummingbird and Bigby,
Investigators.
December 15, 1937.

Interview with Jim Padgett.
Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Laws and Outlaws.

Mr. Padgett at one time served as deputy sheriff in the Cherokee Nation under Ben Knight, sheriff of Goingsnake District. He helped in the arrest of the two Dunowose boys for killing Wash Lee, a former sheriff of the district. Padgett was also a brother-in-law to Ned Christie, a famous early day bad man.

According to Padgett, Christie was not a bad man as is sometimes called. He was a respected citizen at the time he was accused of a killing at Tahlequah. At that time he was serving as a messenger boy for the Cherokee legislature. But like many other Cherokees he was fond of his drink and at the time of the killing he happened to be drinking and in company with a man by the name of Parris.

This was told to Padgett by Ned himself that he was not guilty of the crime he was accused of committing. He

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said that he did not know that the man killed was a United States Marshal at the time.

He and Parris were walking along the small branch which is now the north part of the town of Tahlequah when the officer approached the pair. They were not commanded to halt by the officer. The officer fired three shots at them before Parris answered his fire. In this fight the officer was slain.

Parris at their arrest turned State's evidence against Ned and Ned was wanted for murder. The strict laws of the Cherokee Nation and the United States Court at Fort Smith caused Ned to turn bad. When he found out that Parris had turned against him he said then that he would never be taken alive.

He kept his word good; finally at last, in 1892, he was killed by a posse of United States Marshals at his home near Wauhilla.

Padgett was his brother-in-law although he was a "permitted" white man. He married into a Cherokee family.

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Goback Christie, a brother of Ned, is still living.