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DENNIS HENDRICKS  
Tahlequah R. R. #2

by Frank J. Still 150

Dennis Hendricks born in the city of Tahlequah, Indian Territory July 8, 1854. I will be 83 years old July 8, 1937. I was born just south of the old Cherokee advocate building.

Father's name, James R. Hendricks--born Nov. 23, 1819--died May 3, 1901 Born in the state of Georgia. Came to the Cherokee Nation when he was 12 years old. My father James R. Hendricks was in the Union Army stationed at Fort Gibson, I. T., during the Civil War as a wagon maker and wood worker. There was an old darkey worked in the shops with him, he did the blacksmithing or iron work.

My father, James R. Hendricks, was dist. Judge for Tahlequah for two terms. He held many places during Cherokee times. Served as a member of the Council, and I don't know what all. One time while father was Judge, he had one of those small medicine pots and three ducks. Old man, Ben Grimmatt, living out west of town stole the pot and ducks. So father and another man went out there and told old man Grimmatt that they had come after the ducks and pot. He said that he had not seen the stolen goods. So father told him that a certain man saw Grimmatt steal the ducks and pot so after he found out that they had the proof on him, he went and got the stolen goods. They arrested Grimmatt and brought him to town and father got a man by the name of Reece to set on the bench in his place and try Grimmatt. Mr. Dobson Reece sentenced him to ten lashes on the bare back with hickory withs. They taken him down just west of the advocate building where the old light plant stands, there were some walnut trees there, they tied his rists together put a rope through his arms and pulled his arms up so that he had to tip toe, pulled his shirt off and gave him ten lashes with some large hickory withs. When they let him down, he said that some man owed him and he was going to look for him, and if he

did not pay him, he was going to whip him. So a bunch of us watched to see if we could see them fight, but he did not find the man but father got his pot and ducks.

This same man Reece that set on the bench in father's place lived up on the east hill in town. He had a grown man staying with him and during the Civil War he and this young man just stayed at home. When they would see soldiers or the Pin Indians coming they would hide. Mr. Reece had some small boys and they would keep watch out for the soldiers and Pin Indians. I would play with these children. We would get in some of the caves on the branch over on the east hill and hide in the cave and watch for these Pin Indians. They camped down south of where the jail is now. They would ride up and down the street and shoot people. One day they were riding up the street. Old man Tom Woodard had his arm leaning against the door in a plain view of the Pin Indians while they were riding up the street and they shot Mr. Woodard in the elbow and the bullet ranged up and lodged in his wrist. So some men pressed on the bullet and pressed it out of the hole, where it went in his elbow.

Mother's name, Nancy Woodall. I don't remember much about my mother's people.

William Hendricks born state of Georgia Aug. 25, 1797. My grandfather was an old settler came to the West before the Cherokee drive 1838. Grandfather died Jan. 21, 1868 and is buried in Hendricks cemetery 1 mile west of the Indian training schools.

Grandmother-name Susana Hendricks. My grandmother stayed with the children until they drove the Cherokees in 1838. She came with the children to what is now Cherokee county. Grandfather had come and settled a place for them just south of the Hendricks cemetery. She was born in the state of Georgia Jan. 25, 1798 and died Jan. 25, 1886 and is buried in the Hendricks cemetery.