

HENDRIX, ANNIE ELIZA. INTERVIEW.

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Investigator, Jas. S. Buchanan,
March 3, 1938.

Interview with Annie Eliza Hendrix
Tahlequah, R. 2, Box
162.

I was born December 8, 1852, on what was known as the old Coody place, later known as the Andrew Woodall place, eight miles west of Tahlequah.

My father was Andrew Woodall, white, and my mother was Margaret Hendrix Woodall, daughter of William and Susana Hendrix, Cherokees. Both of my parents were born in the old Cherokee Nation; my mother was born in the year of 1822. They came to the Cherokee Nation with their parents with the expedition known as the Old Settlers of the Cherokees in 1831. My grandfather, William Hendrix, settled a claim about 1840 about six miles southwest of the town of Tahlequah which is now known as the Jim Gourd place. The original log home has long ago passed out of existence, and only a part of the old stone chimney marks the site of this one

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time comfortable pioneer home. I was nine years of age at the outbreak of the Civil War and the family was yet living at the old Coody place where I was born. My father and my oldest brother, Daniel Woodall, joined the Federal cause, enlisting at Cane Hill, Arkansas, as there were no Federal forces at Fort Gibson at the beginning of the War. Later, the regiment that my father and my brother, Daniel, were with was moved from Cane Hill to Fort Gibson where Father was stricken with smallpox and died in 1862 and my brother, Daniel, served through the period of the war.

There never was any nation of people divided against each other like the Civil War divided the Cherokees. At the beginning of the war the Federal soldiers were taken away from the Cherokee Nation and left the nation practically in the hands of the slave owners and all who were advancing the cause of the Confederacy and the bitterness of feeling between the North and South extended throughout the nation

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as many of the Indians were wealthy slave owners, and vehemently opposed any doctrine at variance with their traditional customs. There had been a smoldering hatred existing between two political factions ever since before the movement of the Cherokees from the old Cherokee Nation and when the Civil War broke out, it only afforded an opportunity for the fire of this old feud to burst forth in all its fury. Practically all of the followers of the Ridge faction joined the Confederate cause while the opposing faction, including the Kee-too-wah clan, known as the "Pin" Indians, supported the Union side. General conditions in the Cherokee Nation became so serious because of reprisals by each faction against the other; such as, assassinations, robbing and burning of homes, etc., that the entire nation became almost deserted, as the Confederate faction moved their families south to the Choctaw Nation and those who supported the Union cause moved north into Kansas and a very few families remained at their homes in the war-torn nation. My mother,

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my younger sister and I remained at the old home during the entire period of the war, though the hardships were many. After the Federal troops, which Father and my brother, Daniel, were with, moved from Cane Hill, Arkansas, to Fort Gibson and reoccupied that place conditions in this immediate vicinity were not quite so bad, though Daniel took our younger brother, William, who was twelve years of age and kept him at the barracks at Fort Gibson to protect the boy from the Confederate soldiers as several boys near his age had been killed in the homes throughout the Nation. The Confederate soldiers never molested us personally, though they robbed our place of all cattle, hogs, chickens and everything we had to eat and everything else of any value.

After the Federal forces returned to Fort Gibson and established a Government commissariat, they issued rations to the few remaining families in the community who had been robbed of everything and had nothing to eat, and if it had not been for that relief by the

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Government, I don't know what would have become of us. Mother still had an old horse, due to the fact that he was so badly crippled up he was unfit for service in the War and they would not take him.

Mother, my sister and I would lead this old horse and go to Fort Gibson once each week, draw our rations; the soldiers would secure the pack on the horse and then we would start on the long, weary journey back home, a round trip of about twenty-five miles.

In 1869 I was married to a Cherokee of the name of Aaron Terrell, and immediately after our marriage we settled on a claim that had been partly improved before the War but the original settlers never returned after the War and what improvements that had been made were destroyed during the War. We improved the place and made it our home for several years and three children were born to us there. This marriage resulted in a separation about 1874, and in 1877 I was married to Frank Hendrix, Cherokee. Five children were born to that union, including George Hendrix,

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my oldest son with whom I am residing at this time.

My husband, Frank Hendrix, died in 1884.