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Indian-Pioneer History
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Edward Hines, a pioneer white man, was born at Dutchtown, Arkansas, March 4, 1880. His father was Joe Hines and his mother was Pollie Whinnery. The family came to the Cherokee Nation in 1880.

The Hines family settled in the community now known as Honey Hill in what is now Adair County. His father and his mother separated when Edward was three years old. Mr. Hines married a Cherokee girl by the name of Cynthia Ragsdale. To this union there were born three children, namely: Joe, Roxie and Mary.

Joe remained at home with his father until he was seventeen years old. He went to Tahlequah at the time of the Strip Payment. His step-mother died about that time. After the death of his step-mother he left home and found employment at George Bailey's near Tahlequah. He worked for Mr. Bailey several years at fifty cents per day.

(Early Life)

Most of the early life of Mr. Hines was spent on the farm. He did not go to school much for he had to work for his living at a very early age. Most of the work that he did was farm work. He received wages.

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(Trading Point)

The early-day trading point for him was the town of Tahlequah, the Capital of the Cherokee Nation. This was only a small place at that time. He has been to this town when it was wild. He has heard many murder trials during the territorial days.

People did not do much trading then. Money was scarce among the Cherokees. They usually raised all they needed at home. They seldom had any surplus to sell.

Fort Gibson was another trading point for the Cherokees that lived north of Tahlequah.

(Game and Fish)

There were all kind of game to be found around Tahlequah at that time. Deer went in droves. Wild turkeys abounded in the woods. The Illinois River and Fourteen Mile Creek were full of fish. There was no law to prohibit any one from killing all the game he needed.

There was also many wild hogs to be found in the woods. Every man that had a claim in the woods was allowed just as many hogs as his family could consume in a year.

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Fish poisonings was an annual affair with the Cherokees. Mr. Hines has been to a few of them. Thousands of pounds of fish were killed every year.

(United States Marshals)

He was acquainted with several United States Marshals at that time. They made Tahlequah their headquarters, for this was the capital of the Cherokee Nation. They would bring prisoners to this place to stay over night. They were not allowed to arrest anyone unless they had a warrant. The United States Marshals were usually men from Arkansas.

~~Among those he was acquainted with was Heck Bruner, Tom Johnson, Pleas Bussey and Zeke Parris.~~

(Outlaws)

One outlaw then was Ned Christie, who is classed as one of the bravest men in the southwest. Waco Hampton was another Tahlequah boy who went bad. They were both killed by marshals.

(Church)

The earliest church that he knows anything about was the church organized at Honey Hill. There

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was also an old Sunday School at this place. Among the active workers were Nick Byers, Watt Augerhold, a fullblood, Buck Eli and John Livers. This was a union Sunday School both for whites and Cherokees.

(Cattlemen)

A cattleman at that time was John Phillips who lived on Lowery's Prairie. This was about twenty-five miles north of Tahlequah. While in the Goingsnake District, the Starrs were the leading cattlemen. They owned several hundred head of cattle.

The people in those days never sold cattle as they do now. They sold by the age not by the weight. Buyers would come from the other states to buy cattle in the Cherokee Nation. The nearest shipping point in the Indian Territory was Vinita. Most of the early-day buyers drove their cattle there to ship.

(Civil War)

He does not know very much about the Civil War only what has been told him by the old timers. He does know that his uncle, Bob Whinnery, was hanged during that war.

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He was the operator of the mill at Dutchtown at that time. A small boy by the name of Jerome Kidd saw the men when they hanged him. Whinnery did not take either side during that war. The Federal Scouts caught him.

(Mineral)

There was supposed to be plenty of mineral in the Cherokee Nation, but it was a violation of the law for any one to prospect for mineral. The Cherokees thought that was the cause of the Removal. There was a small mine somewhere in what is now Cherokee County, for the Cherokees used to go get it and make their own bullets. They had molds to fix them in. Not much mining was done in this country.

(Railroads)

The coming of the railroads raised a great question among the Cherokees. Most of the full bloods opposed the railroads.

The council voted them an allowance to cross the Cherokee Nation. The Kansas City Southern extended lines from Siloam Springs in 1894. The same year the town of Westville began to build. Later the Frisco was

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also allowed to build through the Cherokee Nation.

After the two railroads intersected at Westville this became a town of about six hundred population.

(Allotment)

~~This law was passed by the Council. Every full~~
blood Cherokee was opposed to this law. They wanted their country to remain as it was--everything in common.

After the passage of this law there were some members in the Council that protested this law. The President of the United States issued a proclamation calling another election. At this election there were some members of the Night Hawk Indians who did not vote and the following election this law carried. So the land was divided in severalty.