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INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS W. HUNTER

FIELD WORKER HAZEL B. GREENE

JUST A SKETCH ABOUT WILSON JONES, GOVERNOR OF CHOCTAWS.

Wilson Jones, was seventeen years old when he married his young wife, and she was sixteen. They lived up about Bethel, but they wanted to get away from there,. He thought the land of opportunity for a young man just starting out, was just a little farther away.

They had a yoke of yearling oxen, hitched to a sled, upon which they loaded their earthly possessions, which consisted of a few quilts, pillows and blankets, a skillet and a few pots. Practically no food, they were just nearly on starvation, and, of course, no money. They traveled, slowly, camping wherever night overtook them. With his gun he killed any small game that came his way, also fished along as they desired fish, and slowly made their way up to about Caddo, about 18 miles east of Caddo, there they settled, and by untiring work, good common sense, and good management, he built a home, established a store (known as Jones' store) and in time became a very rich man. He dealt in stock, and had lots of farming done.

He was twice married to Indian women, was reported to have been married to a white woman, and had one common law wife, who was the mother of one Jackie Jones, who is reputed

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to be the son of Wilson N. Jones, and he now resides at Bennington, Okla. He is now about 67 years old. (according to Judge T. W. Hunter). He and an Indian wife had a son, Willie Jones, also a daughter, a beautiful girl, Annabelle Jones, who died at about eighteen years of age at some school which she was attending in Missouri.

Willie was killed in some sort of a feud or fight. A bunch of the Crowders, Bill Ladd and Tuck Bench were all together when he was killed. Ladd and Bench were accused of the killing. Ladd was tried and convicted for it at Antlers, Indian Territory. A reversal of the judgment was requested, and while the reversal was still pending Ladd died. Tuck Bench assumed the responsibility of the killing, but before he was brought into court, he went to Arkansas and died.

Willie was married and left a baby son, also named Willie. His grandfather, Wilson Jones, idolized this boy, and lavished everything upon him. When he was 21 years old, he settled \$25,000.00 upon him and when he was thirty, he gave him \$10,000.00 more. This boy made a trip to Fort Smith, is supposed to have married a woman up there, who is also supposed to have shoved him out of a hotel window, to the ground below. The fall caused his death.

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Wilson Jones could neither read nor write, and when he lay ill the last time, he asked his friend and physician, Dr. Wright, what he could do for the lasting good of his people. Just here, I want to say that Dr. Wright was a Choctaw physician and a good friend of Wilson Jones, and was visiting Jones in a hospital in Sherman, Texas, at the time that I speak of. Dr. Wright advised him to endow a hospital. He meant it for his people, but did not say so in this will, and because he died in the hospital in Sherman, Texas, the city of Sherman insisted and proved that he meant it to be built in Sherman. The State of Texas sued the Choctaw Nation and won the suit, and built the hospital in Sherman.

Even though Wilson R. Jones could not write, he was a very intelligent man and was once Governor of the Choctaw Nation. He is buried at Cade, a little community about six or seven miles from where he had his home and store.

Of course, the most of the occurrences in the life of Wilson is recorded history,. This is a sketch of it as secured from Q. L. Blanche and Judge Thomas W. Hunter. Present County Judge of Choctaw County. Mr. Blanche is acting U. S. I. S. Field Clerk.

Years ago, Governor Jones Everidge, of Fort Towson, Okla, said that when they were being enrolled, he was a tiny baby in his mother's arms. Asked his name, his mother responded that he had none. Governor Wilson Jones was present and suggested that she name the baby for him, which was done. Governor Jones Everidge, now of Muskogee, I believe.

Paragraph 3 was obtained from Judge Hunter, the balance from O. L. Blanche.