

ROSS, S. W.

INTERVIEW

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Elizabeth Ross, Interviewer

November 12, 1937      Interview with  
                                 S.W. Ross, Park Hill, Oklahoma.  
                                 Old Nave Home

A pioneer Cherokee home once stood in a section which is now called the Boudinot locality, but which until some time after the close of the Civil War was spoken of as the Nave locality or neighborhood. Henry Nave, senior, a white man whose wife was Susannah Ross, came west at the time of the removal of the eastern Cherokees from beyond the Mississippi, arriving in the Indian Territory in 1839.

Henry Nave selected a spot upon which to build his home about four miles northeast of the present town of Tahlequah in the woodlands near the Illinois River. The home there built was occupied by the senior Nave and his wife until many years later. The home then fell into the possession of Henry Nave, Junior, and remained in his possession and family for a period of some years, but about the beginning of the eighties of the last century, the home and lands became the property of E. C. Boudinot, Junior, of Tahlequah. The term, "The Nave place," long used in connection with the home and farm fell into disuse and in after years only a few of the older people referred to it by this original designation.

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The old Nave spring, now called the Boudinot spring, flows in unfailing volume from the rocky interior of the earth at the base of a rocky and flinty bluff and forms a small stream. The water is clear and cold and unknown numbers of travelers have halted beside the spring during many years to quench their thirst before proceeding onward, while many others have remained in its vicinity several days before resuming their journeys.

The Nave home, a roomy old-fashioned structure, built of logs and with stone chimneys, was typical of many of the better and more substantial homes of the earlier period. In its vicinity was the farm, the land being of great fertility and producing satisfactory crops of corn and small grain. After acquirement of the land by later owners the acreage of agricultural land was increased.

The Nave home stood on the east side of the Illinois River, the stream being crossed at a ford when the water was at normal stage and when the waters were swollen travelers crossed on a ferry boat.\* The ferry in the vicinity of the

\*It was the writer's experience to cross this raging stream on a ferryboat. There had been heavy rains and some snow, which melting, had caused a very deep rise in the river. The Jones boys living in the Boudinot home ferried us, a party of three, safely across.

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present bridge was in operation many years, not being discontinued until the bridge was completed within comparatively recent years.

Henry Nave, his wife and other members of his family lie in a burying ground not far distant from where the home once stood. Originally the spot was the family burial ground, but in the course of time was utilized by various persons of the neighborhood and of adjoining localities. Instead of being known as the Nave burying ground, the place is now referred to as the Boudinot cemetery.