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THE J. B. RUSSELL FAMILY

J. B. Russell, Cherokee Indian, was born in Dalton County, Georgia, on July 10, 1863. He came to the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory in 1870 with his father and mother.

His father was a white man and his mother, Frances (McClure) Russell, a Cherokee, 1/16th blood, had been in the Territory in 1832 but had gone back to Georgia, returning to the Territory, as stated above, in 1870. They settled two miles south of old Fort Wayne in 1870.

They chose this place for three reasons, namely; it was already settled, there was a fine spring of water and fertile, virgin soil. The family had owned several negro slaves but had sold them before leaving Georgia. At first they only farmed about thirty acres but the farm was enlarged from year to year until they had one of the largest farms in the community. The main crops they grew were corn, wheat and vegetables. The most of their money came from the sale of stock; cattle and hogs. As there was open range, good grass and past and an abundance of spring and creek water, stock raising was very inexpensive. The cattle were driven to Neosho, Mo. and shipped to Chicago and other northern markets. Hogs were driven to VanBuren or Fort Smith and sold.

The Russell's did their trading at Cincinnati, Arkansas, usually at Ra Store. There were only four stores and a flour and grist mill there at that time.

Mr. J. B. Russell received his education and early training at the old Baptist Mission, which is located north of the present town of Westville, Oklahoma. Mrs. Carrie Quarrels was his first teacher. He also attended Sunday School at

Church at the old Baptist Mission. He has always been prominent in the affairs of his neighborhood but never aspired to office.

The lumber used by this family was bought at Mitchell's Mill on the Illinois River at the old Chimney Ford.

Financing of the people was not the task that it is today. When a farmer wished to borrow money, he always knew of some neighbor who had the money and would lend it to him without note or security, probably at the convenience of the borrower. Debts were usually paid promptly. Merchants would also extend credit to those they knew.

J. B. Russell's father was Captain in the Confederate Army under Hood at Johnson. He was also State Senator while he lived in Georgia.

J. B. Russell and Miss Ellen Pool, a white woman, were married in 1894. They are the parents of ten children, five boys and five girls, all living.

He gives the names of some old timers: Frog Sixkiller, Wash Lee, John Blackfoot, Soldier Sixkiller, Taylor Sixkiller, and John Walker, all full blooded Negroes.