

SUNDAY, ED INTERVIEW.

#6925

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS' PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Alene D. McDowell

This report made on (date) July 26, 1937

1. Name Ed Sunday
2. Post Office Address Route #2, Colagah, Oklahoma
3. residence address (or location) 4 1/2 miles north east of Collinsvill
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day _____ Year 1856
5. Place of birth near Locust Grave, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father William Sunday Place of birth Unknown

Other information about father died at the age of 65, buried near
Claremore

7. Name of Mother Mary Burgess-Sunday Place of birth Unknown

Other information about mother Died at the age of 50 years, buried
near Colagah.

Note: or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 38.

Alena D. McDowell
Research Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 26, 1937

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LIFE HISTORY OF A CHEROKEE NATIVE

Given by Ed Sunday

Route #2

Oolagah, Oklahoma

Ed Sunday was born in November 1856, on the Markham Prairie, near where Locust Grove is now located.

Father - William Sunday, died at the age of 65 years and is buried in the Sunday Cemetery, eight miles northeast of Claremore, on Pryor Creek. His was the first grave in this cemetery.

Mother - Mary Burgess-Sunday died at the age of 50 years and is buried in the Sunday Cemetery on the old home place, south of Oolagah.

I am one of the few Cherokee Indians, who has witnessed the many changes that have taken place in this country, from the early days to the present time. I feel that it might be of interest to the younger generation to know my story concerning the changes and development of the country.

I have lived in and around Oolagah since 1861, and have had many experiences and seen many changes in the mode of living and the development of the country.

EARLY CHEROKEE HISTORY

History teaches us when De Soto made his famous expedition on the Mississippi river in 1539-40 he passed through the territory occupied by the Cherokee Indians and found that to be the most civilized tribe he had ever seen. They were living in log houses and cultivating the soil.

Almost every one has a feeling of pride in their ancestors, and I am no exception. Before we go further I wish to say a few words in regard to them, to show that most of the Cherokees who came here, or were forced to come, were well advanced in the occupation of farming, and in the arts of civilized life.

Up to that time, the Cherokees had been trying for many, many years to establish a permanent home for their people, but it seemed they were only permitted to remain at each location, on an average of 10 years.

They began making treaties with the United States which lengthened their occupancy of the Cherokee Nation about 65 years.

When the Cherokees came to the Indian Territory, this was, literally speaking, a wilderness with no improvements of any kind. The east side of the Cherokee Nation was a timber land, where wild game of all kinds and description was plentiful, and the streams were full of fish. The west side of the Nation was mostly prairie land, the grass being very rank, and the only kind of wild game inhabiting it were prairie chicken and quail. There were also plenty of fish in the streams in this section of the Nation.

In 1835 the Cherokees made a treaty with the United States. Their independence was acknowledged and the title to the land they occupied was confirmed. From that time the tribe made rapid progress in civilization.

In 1820 the Cherokee Nation in Georgia and North Carolina was organized and a year or two later a constitution suitable to their condition was adopted. Schools were established and Sequoyah invented the Cherokee alphabet in about 1825, which soon enabled

them to read in their own language. Many books were printed in this language, including the Bible.

In 1827 the first Indian printing press in the United States was established, and the next year the Cherokee Phoenix, the first Indian newspaper, was published. I think a part of this paper was printed in the English language. The Cherokees then re-established their government in this country and made Tahlequah the capital.

Schools were re-established and industries were revived in the new Cherokee Nation and the government functioned efficiently for about 65 years, insofar as it concerned the Cherokees, or until the tribal government was abolished by an act of Congress, known as the Curtiss Bill. The Cherokee government was compelled, by said act, to enter into the agreement with the United States government, to avoid some of the harsh provisions of this act.

The Constitution of the Cherokee Nation, published by an act of the National Council, in

1892, and approved by Principal Chief, C.J.Harris, provided the appointment of two competent men to complete the laws. John T. Adair, a Cherokee, and William Ubanks, a white man, translated the same in the Cherokee language.

TREATIES

The treaty between the United States and the Cherokee Indians separated our people, making the Eastern Cherokees and the old settlers remove to this country.

On July 2, 1838, by order of the National Convention, the government removed the Eastern Cherokees. This treaty was signed by:

George Laury, President of the Eastern Cherokees.

George Guss, President of Western Cherokees. Active Union

Charles Joody - Absolata - Jack Spears - Ludy Price,

(by order of the National Convention) and John Laury,

(by X mark) Acting Principal Chief of Western Cherokees.

The foregoing instrument was then read and approved by us August 23, 1839. Aaron Price - Mag Pullen - Young Elder - Deer Track - Young Puppily -

Turtle Fields - July - The Eagle - The Crying Buffalo, and a great many others too, numerous to mention.

Our people came together again as one group and formed a new government. The boundary of the Cherokee Nation started at a point southeast of Fort Smith, Arkansas, running west to the three corners post, joining Cherokee, Creek and Osage Nations, thence north to the Kansas line, thence east to where three corners join Cherokee, Arkansas and Missouri, thence south to the point of beginning.

I remember our men going to Tahlequah to attend a meeting, to form a new treaty. This was known as the "Treaty of 1866," and provided that our people divide their land with the Freed Negroes. Bill Ross was the Cherokee Chief at that time.

Our constitution and laws were all made and eight districts were layed off, the same being: Coowescoowee, Delaware, Saline, Going Snake, Flint, Sequoyah, Illinois and Canadian. I lived in the Coowescoowee District.

POLITICS

Our people were divided politically, and will always be. There were two parties, known as the Downing or Democratic ticket and the Ross, or better known as the Republican party. If I remember right I cast my first vote in 1877, and I do not remember ever failing to cast my vote, and it was always for the Democratic party, and I expect it will always be.

I farmed for two years on Bird Creek, for Watt and Jim Davis, the only ^{W.D.} families living there. Jim Davis' residence was one of the voting precincts for the Cooweescoowee District and it was at his place I cast my first vote.

CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCES

My father was a Union man and my mother's people were all southerners.

My parents separated when I was a small boy and I stayed with my mother. You can now see how I became a Democrat.

My father belonged to the Secret Society of the Pen Indians. He was a Captain, and I can say

I am not of this episode of his life.

I am not able to relate but little about the Civil War, for I was too young. After my parents separation, my mother married a man named Buffington, a Cherokee. He was a man who feared nothing. I had gone south with my uncle and my mother stayed with her husband and his niece.

My step-father was gathering up a bunch of horses to take with him, when about twenty northern Osages rode up to the house, looking for him with the intention of killing him. Not finding him at home, two of them went to the horse corral, put a rope on a nice filly and led her off. He returned home that night, learned what had happened, told my mother to load up the wagon, that he intended to get even with those Osages. He pulled out that night and caught up with the rest of his people.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Down the Arkansas river between the mouth of the Verdigris and Grand rivers, the only way to cross was by ferry, and there was only one boat. Our outfit wanted to cross the river just about sunset. Just as the boat landed, we saw

the whole sand bar was lined with "blue coats," but they could not get the boat. Our people were trying to meet Quantrell's Brigade. The Federals crossed on the boat, by morning. About four miles up the river was a Creek town, known as the Creek Agency. The next day about ten o'clock, the Blue Coats reached the Creek town and set it on fire.

We met "Quantrell's Fighters of the World," composed of Texans, Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws. The Blue Coats met Quantrell's men on Elk Creek, a short distance from where Muskogee is now located. That was the worst threshing the North ever received. I think they lost nearly every man they had.

My father, a Northerner, was behind us with a company of full-blood Cherokees and they sure were hard on us Southerners. A lot of people moved south, to western Texas, into Montag County, seventy-five miles southwest of Gainesville. Our people lost everything they possessed. possessed

We left Texas in the winter of 1864, and returned to the Cherokee Nation, and settled east of Grand

river on Markham's Prairie. I attended the Cherokee school for six months. My people were well divided by this time. We lived on Grand river until 1871.

A few of our Cherokee people, who came back to this vicinity after the war were the: Rogers, Vanns, Burgesses, Adairs, Hicks, McCoys, Shrimpsires, Chambers, and my family, the Sundays.

TRANSPORTATION.

The only means of transportation through the Indian Territory was the stage line, which ran from Kansas, through the Indian Territory to Texas. These coaches were drawn by either four or six horses and some of them carried as high as twenty passengers. The mail and baggage was carried on top of the coach.

In 1870 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad built the first line through the Indian Territory.

HAPPENINGS AFTER THE WAR

I had to work at what ever I could find to do, to help keep my mother, her sister and myself. We

made a crop on Grand river in 1868, when I was twelve years old.

In 1873 I moved down on the Arkansas river, near where Broken Arrow is now located, and helped my uncle on the farm and with the ferry boat he operated. This was the Millers Ferry. I was there for two years. The Younger Brothers and James Brothers camped near us on the Arkansas river that winter. My uncle and cousin knew them, but did not reveal their identity to me until they had left. That winter I saw the river frozen over, and we could drive a herd of cattle and loaded wagons over the ice. In March of that year I saw fat hogs frozen to death in their beds.

In the fall of 1874 I removed on Dog Creek, where the present location of Claremore is now. Uncle Joe Chambers operated the only trading post we had, located on Dog Creek, just below where Claremore now stands. I don't think there were fifty acres broke out on these prairies at that time. Our people began to revive.

I rented a farm that is known as the Dock Faulkner place, west of Claremore. At that time there were no railroads, and Claremore was unheard of. While living on this place I married my first wife, Nancy Wilkerson, a Cherokee girl. My first two children were born here.

I then bought a place known as the Ed Sanders farm, where I lived until 1881. Our third child, Lucille, now deceased, was born here.

I then bought and improved a place on the hill, about four miles south of Colagah. Our fourth child, Edward, Jr., was born here.

Our oldest child, Janie King, now lives in Tulsa. The oldest son, William E. Sunday, is very active in Real Estate business in Claremore and is considered one of the city's most successful business men. He owns several farms and a nice little cattle ranch, with an extra nice bunch of cattle and a few of the best brood mares in the country.

RANCHES

The ranch owned by my son, William, is located four and one-half miles northeast of Collinsville,

composed of 400 acres, and is one of the best farms in Oklahoma. There is an abundance of grass, water, pecans, fruit trees and plenty of timber. There are two fine natural lakes, with plenty of fish. This cattle ranch is better known as the Willie Musgrove place. Mr. Musgrove was an uncle of Will Rogers. I live on this place at the present time, and this is where I hold my annual picnic and rodeo each year.

In 1880 I worked ~~for~~ ^{three} ranches, The Clem Rogers and Billie R Rogers Ranch, the Major Lipe Ranch and the Willie Musgrove Ranch, the latter is my present location. This ranch was located between the Caney and Verdigris rivers, ran north from the mouth of the Caney river, as far as Talala. In those days the whole country was cattle ranches. On these ranches I worked as a line rider and also made the cattle roundups every spring, which was to gather up the cattle and bring them home. In the spring I would ride the line, to keep the

cattle drifted back. This range was about ten miles square. I worked for these ranches until about 1887. At this time I lost my wife, and she is buried in the old Sunday Cemetery, on our home ranch.

LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

The year that Joel B. Mayes was elected Principal Chief of the Cherokees, I was elected Representative of the Cherokee National Council, from the Cooweescoowee District, at Tahlequah.

I served for two years and in 1888 I took an active part in the re-leasing of the Cherokee Strip to the Old Livestock Association, the second time. When their lease expired, they wanted to renew it for a period of five years, at the rate of \$500,000. At this time one of the big political battles between the two parties occurred.

One party undertook to lease it to a home company, while the other party wanted to lease it to the Livestock Association, at the highest cash bidder, both parties being willing to accept a certified check for the lease. This money was to be turned to the treasurer of the Cherokee Nation,

Uncle Henry Chambers.

Two Representatives of the Live Stock Association, Tom Hutton and Ed Brink, and our treasurer, Uncle Henry Chambers, made a trip to Kansas City, unknown to the others. They went by stage to Tahlequah and over the New Mountain from Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, to Kansas City, Missouri.

They received \$500,000 and returned to Fort Gibson with the money. They were met by Jess Cochran, sheriff of Nowata County, with ten armed Cherokees. They traveled through the hills at night on horseback. Uncle Henry Chambers was riding a mule, and carried the money in saddle bags. It was placed in the treasurer's safe, without any trouble.

About this time the Cherokee people began to get tricky, and I began to learn something about politics.

The first thing that happened after the money was received was to make the bill, which took us about a week. There was a resolution introduced

to make the bill read, "to the highest, responsible cash bidder."

The home company felt sure they would get the lease, for the certified check, as they had made a big fight. I preferred the cash instead of a certified check.

one of
This was the first time that money was spent for votes, but it had no effect. They awarded the lease to the Old Livestock Association.

Now I will show you why the money is better than anybody's check. The old company put up \$250,000 in cash. If the home company would have gotten the lease, and put up home checks, the Cherokee Nation would have lost the whole thing.

DISPOSAL OF THE CHEROKEE STRIP

The government took over the Cherokee Strip and started moving big herds of cattle out of the Outlet. They tried to make another raw deal with our people, to open up the strip for settlement.

There was already a big battle on between the cattleman and old David L. Payne, leader of the

"Boomers." Under the leadership of Payne, a band of people prepared to enter the Territory and take possession of the "Unassigned Lands." This group was nicknamed "Boomers." Payne and his Boomers did not have much success, for scarcely had they pitched their tents in the Indian Territory, when the United States soldiers ordered them out.

Payne was determined to settle here, though, and would not become discouraged over failure. Again and again he attempted to plant a colony and was often arrested and put in jail.

Payne and his Boomers failed to take our land because the Cherokee people had to put it to a vote in order for the strip to be opened for settlement.

In 1888 or '89 our chief, Joel B. Mayes, died. On his dying bed he advised our people to not vote our land away to the United States government so the Boomers could not ^{get} the land without our ~~giving~~ our rights away.

You can readily see the Boomers failed to settle on our land until each one of our Cherokee people received our portion or share, which amounted to \$265.

The United States government gave us another raw deal when they forced us to sell for \$1.25 per ^{acre} ~~acre~~ when we were offered \$12.50 per acre. The Cherokee Strip was thrown open for settlement but all that the Boomers got was the dust and the Cherokees got the money.

EARLY HISTORY OF OOLAGAH

In about 1891 I removed to Oolagah, and in order to secure the building I bought a small hardware store. I also built and operated the first livery stable, starting with one buggy and one saddle horse. I built a dwelling and moved to town. I operated a general merchandise store.

~~We had no prospects of Collinsville at that time,~~
but my biggest trade was in the vicinity of where Collinsville is now located.

The entire country was developed into ranches, and was full of cowboys. The cattle thieves also

played up to their reputation and kept us busy protecting our cattle.

The Cherokee allotment appeared to be in sight and I realized our family had more land than we could hold, so I sold my place south of Colagah for \$1700 cash. I had on hand about \$1,000 valuation in cattle, horses and hogs. The cattlemen who saw this change coming and realized it would hurt us were, Uncle Clem Rogers, his half brother, Frank Musgrove and Major Lips. I then located a good place west of Colagah.

COAL MINING

I leased my new place, west of Colagah, to a white man. I do not recall his name, for ten years. He was to break the land, build a good three room house, barn, dig a well and plant an orchard.

He began to break and build a house. While digging a post hole, he struck coal. This was a great surprise to the people, for we did not know there was any coal in this country. I took a crew of men and put in a few prospect

holes and discovered coal.

I then went to Tahlequah, by train, and as I knew the law, I took a mining lease from the treasurer of the Cherokee Nation giving me a permit to lease to outside capital, by paying into the treasurer at the rate of 25 cents per ton royalty. It was soon rumored that I had struck coal on my place, and in four days men called from Independence, Kansas, to lease it. We talked the matter over and I gave them a ten day option on it, which they accepted. They mined it for about ten years. This was the first and biggest industry that had struck this country.

We had a town site law at this time. The Iron Mountain railroad ran through Oolagah and the Frisco railroad was built as far as Tulsa. We had not struck oil as yet, but oil men were becoming interested.

I went to Braggs, Indian Territory, and bought fifty head of yearling steers and shipped them to Oolagah. At that ^{time} there were no stock yards there, so

I jumped them out of the car. My business was growing so I hired Jake Pine to keep my books and work in the store as a clerk.

My children had been attending the neighborhood school and I decided to send them away for higher education. I could see the advantage of a good education and wanted my children to have the best. I sent my oldest son, William, to a business college and hired Mr. Pine and his sons to help me in the store and with my business until William finished school. I sent Eddie, the youngest boy, to Business College at Webb City, Missouri, and Ellen, my only child by my second marriage, went to a ladies' college at Lexington, Missouri. My second wife was Maggie Sanders, whom I married in 1888.

When my children returned home, they were well equipped to face the future. William took my place behind the desk and we started business together.

Bill was unsettled and we tried to get him to settle down in some kind of business. He was well qualified to hold a choice position and we needed him.

I thought I could use him in the store, but he was not interested. I had several business enterprises at that time, was handling cattle on a large scale, operated a large merchandise business and had opened up a coal mine. He could have worked in any of these enterprises and we needed his assistance badly.

I decided to send him to Medical college, for I realized this was a good profession and it looked like easy money. He was dissatisfied with this arrangement and decided he preferred to be a farmer or stockman.

I bought more cattle, for we had acres, an acres of range. This was just prior to statehood and we had plenty of money. I bought Eddie two good cow horses and a \$50 saddle.

John Erickson had a big ranch south of Colagam, so I took three Cherokee boys, Bruce Mitchell, Roy Walker, Kute Tucker and my son, Ed, Jr., we went to the ranch where I bought 200 coming two year old steers for \$22 per head. Erickson had the finest ranch in the country.

I traded my Tivery barn to F. P. ... for
 fifty brood mares. He was a big rancher and
 a good business man, he didn't see the cattle
 business was at an end and began to sell his
 cattle. This was after the government had
 out lease on the Cherokee land. He
 saw the Cherokee people for it. He saw a chance
 to turn his horses into some Cherokee stock
 money, and sold the barn to John Taylor for
 \$1,000 cash, when John drew his stock money.

Then the Missouri Pacific railroad was
 through the country, the law provided a loca-
 tion for a town every six miles. The towns
 between Fort Smith, Arkansas and Coffeyville,
 Kansas, are: Hanson, Vian, Brass, Fort Gibson,
 Faroner, Ross, India, Wash, Claremore, Ap-
 éeyah, Colagah, Tawak, Tatova, Nowata, Dela-
 ware and Senapan. These towns were all laid
 out, and the size of each town was 640 acres.
 The lots were to be sold only to citizens of
 the Cherokee Nation. We then elected officers,
 and I was elected the first mayor of Colagah,

Bill Taylor was my clerk, John Taylor was the first marshal and Charlie Roberson was his deputy. Under the tribal laws of the Cherokee Nation it was lawful for the mayor to perform marriage ceremonies. I had the pleasure of re-marrying three couples who had formerly been married in Texas. Under our tribal laws a white man must be married in the Cherokee Nation to become a citizen. These couples were: Bill Harris and his Cherokee wife; Walter [unclear] his Cherokee wife and John [unclear] his Cherokee wife.

Our town site laws were in full operation and some improvements were started on the 64 acre townsite, under my supervision. With the

help of the marshal force I cut the fences and removed all the unnecessary construction, and opened up the streets. At that time [unclear] was the best looking little place in the state.

We had constructed the little stone jail to hold the bad men. As the town was opening up people were buying the town lots.

With the aid of outside capital the coal business was booming, farming was a leading industry and farm teams were flowing in from every state in the Union, and the improvements of the town lots made Oolagah appear to be a thriving little town.

My sons and I were doing a land office business. I saw teams in Oolagah so thick you could hardly cross the street. This was during harvest time and the teams were hauling wheat and coal to the railroad in Kansas and western Oklahoma. Two or three years later Collinsville was started. They were soon operating coal mines and advertised for teams. People came from different parts of the state and camping places were scarce between Oolagah and Collinsville. I then took full charge of my coal mines and farm, which I operated until about 1933, just before the depression, when we sold our business.

At the time Oolagah was booming I owned about one-half of the town. Oolagah lost out when the

oil boom came. I helped organize an oil company to drill a well in Colagah, which was a dry hole. I saw Colagah had failed and turned every thing loose.

FORDS AND RIVERS.

The Dick Duck ford was located south of Colagah and was over the Caney river.

The Galcatcher ford was located west of Claremore and crossed the Verdigris river.

The Woodroof ford crossed Caney river west of Colagah.

The McClellan ford was south east of Ramona, over the Caney river.

Conner's ford was located near the Will Roger's ranch, east of Colagah and crossed the Verdigris river.

Ash Hopper's ford was located south east of Colagah, over Verdigris river.

The only way to cross the river when the water was up was by ferry boat.

FERRY BOATS

In 1873 I worked for my uncle, who operated

the Childers Ferry, across the Arkansas river.

There was a ferry located on the Arkansas river, between the mouth of the Verdigris and the mouth of Grand rivers. This boat was used by the people during the Civil War.

My father owned and operated a ferry on Grand river, between Choteau and Tahlequah. This ferry was used when traveling through Markham's Prairie in Saline.

OUTLAWS

I knew some of the desperate outlaws of the early days and want to say that some of these men had a fine character. I knew the Walton Boys and their gang, Barker and Triplet, Cherokee Bill, The Jock gang, Jim French and his gang, the Jennings gang, the Doolins and the Green brothers.

The three Green brothers were captured at the Ashhopper ford. They had planned to come to Colagah to rob my store and to rob the bank at Claremore. Charles McClellan was up on the Caney river, at his ranch, when he met Leonard Traylor, a Cherokee. The Green boys lived near Leonard and had proposed

that Leonard go with them on a scouting trip. Leonard agreed and made the trip.

Charles McClellan was shrewd and a pretty good detective. He had Leonard to secure the confidence of the boys and had the plans all laid. Leonard revealed his plans to the boys. They were to go to the trestle, near the mouth of Four Mile creek, south of Colagah, then to the Ash hopper ford and wait until about sun down, then come to Colagah and rob my store and the bank at Claremore. Leonard worked with McClellan against the Green boys.

McClellan then made a trip to his ranch and returned to Colagah and informed me what was to happen. He called me to one side and gave me this information and ask me to keep it quiet. He told me I had better notify the marshal, so he and his deputy could have some men on guard. He had telegraphed the marshal to meet him in Claremore, and to have men on guard at the river to capture the robbers if they should change their plans.

I won't be sure but I think the marshal was Bud Redbetter.

We heard horses' feet and spurs rattl in , and discovered McClellan and the marshal and they said, "Uncle Ed come out, we got them." They were putting up their horses, and we went up the street to where they were, in front of the Skidmore building, which is now Carlstrum's office. The three Green boys were lying in the hack, driven by George Hoak, a farmer, who had hauled them in. They were placed on a table in the house where we found Ed and Bill had been killed and Arthur was seriously wounded. Arthur was ^{to} turned over/the United States marshal, and was sentenced to a term at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Barker and Triplet were two other dangerous outlaws in the Territory. Barker was wanted for the murder of Bill Howell, a rancher near Vinita. He claimed Howell owed him some money, and he and his gang went to Howell's ranch, rounded up the herd, out about 40 of Howell's cattle and drove them in south of Coody's Bluff, where they stopped

with a neighbor to rest.

The citizens were having a shooting match, composed of Noolia Jouch, Bol Nicholson, Lewis Bible and several others. Barker and his gang fell in with them. These men were law abiding citizens and soon discovered what was taking place and slipped a man out and sent him to report the robbery. Jess Cochran, the sheriff formed a posse, and soon ~~arrived at the scene.~~ started after them. He knew they were headed south, and stationed a man to report their directions. He was ahead of them and stationed his man at Hominy Ford on Bird creek, north of Tulsa. John Grass was with Cochran's posse, and Barker recognized him and realized he was trapped. They then crossed the prairie south of Collinsville, and just before they reached the Bird Creek timber, they discovered a house and turned the cattle toward the house and drove them into the lot. They followed Grass, knowing the posse was at Hominy ford. Cochran had stopped his men, one-half mile north of the falls, and located them in a gully

near a field fence. As Barker approached the fence, he was surprised with a volley of shots. Barker was shot all to pieces and Triplet was captured. The other fellow, a Texan, escaped. All of the horses were killed. Triplet was sentenced to the penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Barker and Triplet were both Cherokees.

AN OLD TIME FEUD

My brother, Jess Sunday, was sheriff of Saline District, and was killed in one of the worst killings ever to take place in this country.

This was a feud of long standing between five families, the Proctors, Becks, Foremans, Albertys and Hisks!

Zek Proctor of the Going Snake District, was on trial for the murder of one of the Beck women. He had killed several men, previous to this killing, and they expected him to be convicted. All parties concerned in this feud were at the trial, and all were well armed.

The court was called to order by the judge, who made the first ruling, which ^{was} not satisfactory. This started the battle, and when the smoke cleared away there had been nine men killed. Proctor was aimed and had taken part in the killing. A United States Marshal, who was there to capture Proctor in case he came clear, was killed. My brother Jess, ~~and~~ Joe Rowe and a man named Ridge were also killed.

This ended the trial and Proctor escaped. He was later pardoned by the government. I knew him personally and he was a fine man, but he didn't allow the government to interfere with his affairs.

Turn Foreman was born and reared at Tahlequah, and was a bad Cherokee. He had killed six men, and had a notch on his six shooter for each of them. He was killed after the Civil War. He had served in the war as a Confederate soldier. The old house still stands at Tahlequah, where he was born.

MISCELLANEOUS HAPPENINGS

In the early '60's my people went to western Texas where they joined a band of wild Indians. These Indians were real hunters and knew where to find plenty of wild game. They helped us kill two wagon loads of deer and buffalo.

I ~~remember~~ remember when we lived on Grand river, when I was a child, we could lay our head on the ground and feel the shock, and hear the trampling of the buffalo herd. I do not recall much about the buffalo, as I was too young.

CHURCH LIFE AND CAMP MEETINGS

Many people think our church life in those days was neglected, but they are mistaken. We held our camp meetings each year and had a great revival. In the summer we held our services in a brush arbor. Some families would camp on the ground, while others would go to the homes of friends. We would kill a beef and enjoy a big feed.

Our meetings were usually held at the Gal-catcher ford and the Coowescowee Coult house on Dog Creek. These meetings lasted from one to several weeks.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

In about 1881 or 1882 the ~~smallpox~~ epidemic broke out in the vicinity of Catoosa, where I lived. This was about the time the railroad was completed. Nearly every Indian in the community had them, and most of them died. This was the most terrible epidemic we had ever suffered, and not knowing how to doctor it, many died from it. Some died from neglect.

FURS AND HIDES

Furs and hides were, of course, a business with the Indians, for they were always known to be great hunters and trappers. This was a commercial business with us, for we depended on it for the necessities.

INDIAN POLICE

Some of the Indian Police I knew were: Ed Sanders, who was elected to this office twice, John Shrimshire, Jess Cochran, Bill McCracken and Charlie Hicks. I think Charlie Hicks was the first Indian Police after the Civil War. He was killed by John Coker and his son, Cal, who was tried for his murder and came clear.

Bill Ross was the first chief after the War. He tried to prevent the southern Cherokees from returning here after the war.

Dick Duck was the first sheriff after the war and my father, William Sunday, was his deputy.

I only recall one toll bridge in our vicinity, it was located over the Caney river, between Collinsville and Oolagah. This bridge was operated by Mr. Butchel, who was camped near the location. I drove a herd of cattle across the bridge and paid one cent per head.

Our early day fire lighter was flint rock and spunk. The spunk was a spongy substance obtained from Oak timber, and caught fire easily. The flint rock was struck with the steel side of a pocket knife, and when the spark flew, the spunk would catch fire.

The first home I built was a two room log house with a side kitchen, located four miles south of Oolagah.

My allotment was located west of Oolagah. It consisted of 80 acres and was appraised at \$8 an

acre, making a total of \$640.

I am filed at Tahlequah as a half-breed, but I am really more than half, for my father was a full-blood and my mother was also of Cherokee extraction, I do not know what degree of Indian blood she had. My Indian name is Totoquaskah.

Our trading posts were Coffeyville, Kansas, and Vinita, Indian Territory.

A man named Weaver who lives at Vinita, has a history printed in 1917, which contains the history of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

Jeff McGee of Miami, Oklahoma, had ~~two~~ ¹ histories printed giving the life record of the Cherokee Indians. There were only two copies of this book, one belonging to Mr. McGee and the other in the Library at Miami.

COMMENTS

Mr. Sunday is a fine old southern gentleman, who speaks a distinct southern brogue. He is 81 years old, but does not look his age by several years.

Mr. Sunday has lived a long life and had many experiences, but his health is excellent. He, like many other Cherokee Indians, feels that they have been mistreated, and he has a great amount of sympathy for his people.

He is an uneducated man, for he lived in the days of the Civil War and education was sadly neglected in those days. Mr. Sunday has a good mind and is an intelligent man to talk with. He has made a success in the business world, regardless of the fact he was uneducated.

Mr. Sunday has sponsored a picnic and rodeo each year for a number of years at his home, four and one-half miles northeast of Collinsville, Oklahoma. On account of his advanced age, this will be the last year he will conduct the annual affair. He is making big plans for the picnic to be held, August 27, 28 and 29th., where they will enact the old Cherokee tribal laws, celebrate with an Indian Pow wow, platform dance, a cattle roundup, showing the cowboys eating at the old chuck wagon, the cattle swimming the lake,

branding the cattle, roping, riding, bulldozing, and last but not least, a free barbeque. In enacting the tribal laws, they will try, convict and whip a man, and will also hang a man to show the severe punishment they executed in the early days.