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Record of the first
Hitchita Church
Interview with
Rev. Willie Honey, Seminole,
Seminole, Oklahoma

There seem to have been before the Civil War, a church in existence but the first record, and the only records we can get, is that of the baptism of Thomas Little, in the year 1857, by James Essex. Whether that was the beginning of the organization of the Hitchita church we don't know and the records after the Civil War seem to have been destroyed or misplaced from reliable sources.

It seems that Toney Burgess, a Creek Indian, came to the Seminole Nation in the interest of reorganizing the Hitchita church. Being sent by other churches it seems he spent sometime here among the people.

There being a few that were members of the church who were interested, and through the efforts of Toney Burgess, they set a day for a gathering of the people. It was across the North Canadian from Seminole County, south of what is now Prague, Okla. some 4 or 5 miles. This seems to have been the beginning of the establishment of the Hitchiti church.

Under an arbor built for this occasion, the people being interested in the gospel of Christ, met and this time the members elected or appointed, ~~John~~ Pakko, as their supervisor or chiefman.

Then the people decided to move their meeting place in 1868 or 1870 across the North Canadian river into Seminoles Nation, and there they worshipped God in a log house, Fus Harjo being chairman and Chokot Harjo, Vice chairman. After the death of these two church leaders, Jacob Chupco became chairman of the organized church; then Frank Coody, a traveling minister, was the pastor in charge.

Then at this time they moved from the log house into a hewed log house; then, for reasons unknown, the hewed house was abandoned, but the people still worshipped God, going from house to house, holding prayer meetings and their regular sabbath meetings.

Then what was known as the Cotton Wood church house was built. Jacob Chupco, was still leader but died before the church house was finished. These people gathered at

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the Cotton Wood church house and they elected Thomas Little, as their leader or chairman. Then he became a traveling minister having other duties to perform and Mose Perryman, ^{ocd} then a local preacher, became the leader or chairman. Mose Sire, a traveling minister, was then pastor in charge.

Mose Perryman, was supervisor of the church house upward of twenty years. During his time as such leader, there were several traveling ministers that passed in and out but two only can be recalled: John Chupco ^{Rev} and Lolo Kawakke ^{Rev}. After the death of Mose Perryman, Waddie Hully took charge of the church during his time.

Then the people moved out of the big Cotton Wood church house six miles and half southeast. In the year 1893 after the death of Waddy Hully (his death being January 9, 1900), Sam Honey was appointed leader or chairman for the church. While he was in charge, they moved the church house $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west to its present site .

In the year of 1904, on November 28, or about this time, Thomas Little having fulfilled his earthly mission in serving the Lord, died . . . Sam Honey was still in charge of

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the church, working faithfully in the Lord. Sam Honey died November 24, 1908. Martin Johnson was then appointed to take charge of the church. After his death, Fus Harjo was appointed chairman of the well organized church and, having fulfilled his mission, died Jan. 11, 1926: then Willie Honey was appointed chairman and Esup Hully, Vice-chairman, who are still leaders up to the present time, of the Hitchita M.E. Church South.

Comittemen:

Willie Honey

Jinka Larney

William Honey

Esup Hully

Bud Little, Sec.

This is the Hitchita language given by Rev.
Willie Honey, Seminole, Oklahoma, R.R.1.

One	Two	Three
Tharman	Tok-lan	Tuchenan
Four	Five	Six
Setarken	Chah-kepan	Eparken
Seven	Eight	Nine
Kolarpaken	Sus-na-paken	Ostapa-ken
Ten		
Pako-lan		

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