

TEEL, LAFAYETTE

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker.

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"Some Old Timers"

by

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From about 1865 to 1895.

I remember numbers of old timers too numerous to try to call, without some thought. Some of the oldest, or the ones I remember in my early days were:

Jim Tincup, Cherokee Indian, who was Sheriff of Delaware County for 14 years. He came from the "Old Country."

Ross and Ed Kerry were sons of old man Kerry who operated one of, if not the first ferry over the Grand River, known as the Kerry ferry. These were Cherokee Indians.

Ples Cheek, Cherokee, was first settler on Cow Skin Prairie, Delaware County. Settled at Big spring around which was a great deal of timber, or a grove. This was the first settlement or beginning of the town of Groves.

There was another settler, a full blood Seneca, by the name of Splitlog. He settled on the Cow Skin River on the northern side of the prairie. He was a man of great wealth, having inherited a fortune of \$2,000,000.00. This fortune came through property on which a part of Kansas City is now built. He brought suit to recover on this and was awarded \$2,000,000, 0 by the court, to cover the property.

He built the Splitlog Railroad, which extended

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southwest from Joplin, Mo. The road was promoted by some white men, Splitlog furnishing the money, and when the road was completed, he was about out of money, and also without title in the road. The white men had beat him out of practically all he had, but his land on Cow Skin prairie.

He had three sons, Dick, Henry, and Gould. They farmed, ran saw mills, and operated threshers. I have been told that the James boys stopped with Splitlog on their trips through this territory. They were hid in the attic. Of course, this is just hear-say, I don't know it to be a fact.

I knew Louise Ward, a Cherokee woman, who came to the territory from North Carolina. She had a son named Will Ward. The Wards lived in Delaware County.

Dan Tittle, a Georgia Indian, was well known in the Northeastern Territory. He was known as a "bad man" as he was very quarrelsome and killed quite a few men before he was killed by Will Ward. The Wards and Tittles had a feud in Georgia and after moving here, this hard-feeling was continued until it resulted in the killing of Tittle by Will Ward. Tittle did not kill for gain, or for the purpose of robbery, as he never was accused of robbing anyone, but was an overbearing, and quarrelsome man,

and when drinking was worse than ever.

On the day Tittle was killed, his cape was probably partly the cause of it. He always wore a cape in winter, instead of an overcoat, and on this day found that all the buttons were off. So he called to his wife to sew some on, but she couldn't find any buttons so told him she would sew the cape in front down a bit, to where the buttons usually went, and this in a manner interfered with the free exercise of his hands. He, with some others, went to Southwest City, just over the line in Missouri, where there were saloons, and where also happened to be Will Ward. When they met, very few words were passed, Ward drawing his gun and shooting Tittle before he could get his gun. He gradually sat down, as he was leaning on the bar, and died sitting upright.

Dan Tittle had one brother, Dick, and two sons, Dick and Bob.

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