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BORN October 19th, 1862
Kentucky

FATHER: Benny Randolph, Cherokee
MOTHER: Tee-He, Creek Indian and Negro

Jeff Randolph's father met his mother on the Randolph Plantation in Kentucky. His father was named Benny Randolph after this Plantation of which he was foreman. His grandfather was well educated and taught the negroes during the progress of the Civil War. Many whites had their heads cut off, and put on a picket fence as a warning to others for teaching the negroes during this time. Thus, his grandfather was warned of his impending danger, and was taken away at night by some of his white friends, and he fled to Sparta, Illinois, where he died. Mr. Randolph saw his father one time, that was at his father's home in Sparta. His father at that time was forty years old.

Colonel Big Be, grandfather of Randolph, had two wives, one a squaw and the other a white wife. When the Cherokees moved west, Big Be did not go because his white wife did not want to go with the tribe. They settled on the Mississippi river with some other followers at Popular Bluffs, near what is now Memphis. This was the beginning of what is known as the rebellious Cherokee Tribe which did not move west with the other Indians in Treaty of 1828.

Mr. Randolph was raised five miles west of Gallatin, Sumner county, Tennessee. He received his education in common school at Gallatin, and also had a private tutor, a Swede by the name of

Zanderwick, and also a teacher McGrow. He had many contacts and associations with prominent political and business men in his later life at Nashville, Memphis and Oklahoma. He helped organize a club in Nashville in which only two negroes belonged, which consisted of lawyers, bankers, state office holders.

In 1832, when the Indians moved with blood relatives of negro extraction, many Indians brought their own slaves with them to Oklahoma.

Randolph has his name on the rolls of the Cherokee nation. He came to Oklahoma in December, 1889, and arrived at Purcell from Gallatin, Tennessee, by rail, coming by the way of Topeka and Arkansas City. His wife's brother took up claim at Purcell. Randolph returned to Oklahoma City, and later leased a ranch near Purcell.

In January 25, 1890, when he first came to Oklahoma City, he rented a shack of 1½ rooms for \$7.50 per month. It was on the site where the Skirvin hotel is now located.

Captain Couch, who Randolph worked for, was killed by Adams in contest over property what is now known as the old court ground. This killing occurred when Couch was having his men fence this property.

Hank Cunningham was killed over property consisting of 160 acres, what is now known as the Maywood addition to Oklahoma City.

Galt was the first marshall. The Government had the city at that time under marshall law. Troops were stationed along Second street. The Government commissary was located where the Rock Island Freight Depot stood. The regular headquarters of the government for

the monthly issue of meat and blankets was at Fort Reno. The Government

constructed houses for the Indians at Darlington, Cheyenne and Arapaho agency. The Indians were also given seed to plant. When the Government officials returned in the fall to see how they were getting along they learned that the Indians were living in Teepees, and used the houses to put their ponies in.

Mr. Randolph states that he saw Chief Bushyhead and Whitehead of the Kickapoo Indians. They were always talking of going to Washington to sell their land to Uncle Sam for a lot of money, and go elsewhere. They made their cooking utensils out of pottery and their tomahawks out of iron and steel, their medicines out of herbs and used different herbs for different ailments. Some knew how to weave cloth made of hemp.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians knew of the death of Custer the next morning after he was killed, while they did not learn of it at Fort Reno until two weeks later. They used as methods of rapid communication through out the country by signal hills, by flaming arrows and by tom tom beats, one tribe would signal another tribe. This is the way they informed Indians of his death, when he was ambushed.

Randolph taught school in Oklahoma city colored schools for twenty years. He played an active part in organization of schools. First year the school was opened they operated on script as they had no money, until the government gave them \$50,000 later.

Indians in early days of the city would go around butcher pens of Oklahoma City, and as butchers threw away liver they would pick it

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up and began eating on it. Many times they stood so close that when the butcher would cut out the liver and the intestines, he would hand it to the Indians, and they would have their cooking pots filled with water. They would wait for meat when slaughtering was on in the pens.

Mr. Randolph is in very good health for his age and very active in civic work for negroes.

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