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Interview with Richard Adkins,
age 86, one-half Creek and Euchee
Indian, living one and one-half
miles north of Sapulpa.

Mr. Ben Marshall, one-half-blood Creek Indian, grandfather of Richard Adkins, came to the Indian Territory from the old Indian country east of the Mississippi River, known as Alabama Country, with his family when the Creek Indians were removed west.

Mr. Marshall settled near the fork of the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers. In the following years he accumulated three large farms by hard work and using good business judgment. Mr. Marshall, farming on a large scale, raised wheat, oats, rice, corn and cotton with the aid of one hundred or more slaves that he owned. He bought hides, corn, oats, wheat, wood and pecans from the Indians on the Verdigris River, where he had a warehouse eight miles north of Muskogee.

The small steamers would come by way of the Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers to Mr. Marshall's warehouse and he would ship his produce to Fort Smith, Arkansas, selling the produce at a nice profit.

He also bought and sold slaves until the Civil War. After the Civil War started, Mr. Marshall, his wife, two daughters and his grandson, Richard

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Adkins, started south with six or seven wagons and thirty slaves. The other slaves that Mr. Marshall owned escaped and went North.

As treasurer of the Creek Nation, Mr. Marshall was in possession of a large amount of gold, silver, and paper money that belonged to his tribe as well as his own fortune. Burdened with the responsibility of guarding the money Mr. Marshall would bury the money which he had placed in coffee pots and gallon cans with the help of his slaves every night when he camped for the night. With Mr. Marshall and his family moving south after the start of the Civil War were the Lewis' and the McIntosh's; Roley, John and Ennis McIntosh who later joined the Confederate Army.

Mr. Marshall first stopped near the mouth of Deep Fork Creek, south of Okmulgee, where they made one crop, but as the fighting between the Southern and Northern armies was getting closer to Deep Fork, Mr. Marshall moved on again to Big Blue Creek and finally settled near Old Stonewall.

Mr. Adkins' grandfather bought 100 bushels of corn at \$5.00 a bushel from a Choctaw Indian farmer named Frank Colbert, during the Civil War.

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The Indians did not farm during the third and fourth year of the Civil War as they did not know when the soldiers would take and destroy whatever was raised or when they would have to move farther from the fighting zone.

During the Civil War the scarcity of feed was so bad that the Indians had to cut down cottonwood trees, feeding the leaves and bark to the horses.

Mr. Richard Adkins' mother, Millie Adkins, and his grandfather, Ben Marshall, died during the third and fourth years of the Civil War.

They were buried in John Petslinn graveyard, fifteen miles south of Old Stonewall.