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INDEX

Lindsey, Harvey  
McCarty, Jane Hanks  
Intermarried whites--Cherokee  
Masonic Lodges--Etowah  
Physicians--Creek Nation

Miss Ella Robinson  
Research Field Worker S-149.

364

Dr. Harvey Lindsey  
Submitted by Mrs. Eck E. Brook  
To  
Miss Ella Robinson

Dr. Harvey Lindsey, the first graduate physician to practice medicine in Indian Territory in civil life, was born in Henry County, Tennessee, July 16, 1825. His parents were Edward and Rachel Murphy Lindsey. He acquired his early education in the subscription school of Henry County, in the portion afterwards named Benton County. He then studied medicine, beginning his practice with Dr. Somers in Newport, Tennessee. He removed to Tyler, Texas, in 1849 where, for twenty years, he was actively engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1851, he was united in marriage to Miss Martha Saline Cowser. Unto them were born five children, Martha S., Hannah, who became the wife of Dr. W. N. Martin, Edward Allen, Harvey, who married Ida Maxwell, and Thomas, who married Nancy Turnbolt.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the southern army and served as a surgeon until its close. Returning home, he found his wife dead and his children being watched over by an old slave who never left them until her death. Finding his property taken away from him, and disgusted

with the carpet-baggers who had taken possession of the town, he resolved to leave for a new country of which he had heard and, in 1869, he came to Indian Territory, locating at Webbers Falls. Deciding that he would make his home in the new country he sent for his sons, leaving his daughter to complete her education at Charnwood College in Tyler, Texas.

In 1872 he was married to Bettie Jane Hanks McCarty, a member of a prominent Cherokee family. In 1874 he moved to Sufaula, Indian Territory, through many years he devoted all of his energies to the alleviation of suffering. In that early day practicing medicine meant long hours of travel in a buggy or on horseback over prairies and hills, where there were no roads and where drives of fifty or one hundred miles were often made.

Genial, friendly, sympathetic, always helpful, he soon made friends with both the red man and the few whites who were then living in Indian Territory, often times finding poverty as well as sickness, he gave food as well as medicine. In fact, his friends deplored his generosity, saying that his course would soon impoverish any man.

A great lover of nature, an ardent fisherman and hunter

he soon found his new country full of interest and often declared that he would not trade it for anybody's land even if he did not own a foot of it. At that early day a white man could not own property in Indian Territory. Having married a Cherokee, he was afterward given an allotment as an adopted citizen.

He was an ardent Mason. He helped to organize the first Masonic Lodge in Eufaula, and was the first Grand Master in the Territory. Throughout his entire career he gave his attention to his profession. Wishing to retire from work he moved to a farm but soon found that he would not be allowed to rest, and his buggy and gentle team of horses were traveling over ever widening roads when the infirmities of old age overtook him. The last years of his life were spent quietly at home where he died at the age of eighty-nine years.