

JOHNSON, ED.

INTERVIEW.

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Carl B. Sherwood,
Interviewer.
September 9, 1937.

An interview with Ed Johnson,
nephew of John E. Johnson.

John E. Johnson was born near Muldrow, Indian Territory, March 21, 1881. Ed. Johnson, sheriff, of Sequoyah County, is of Cherokee and Scotch blood, and seems to have inherited a tendency toward the office which he so well fills. At least his ancestors on both sides of the family for two generations have been peace officers of his nation. George Johnson, grandfather of the sheriff, was born in Arkansas. He was one of the first white men to locate in the Cherokee Nation. He settled in the vicinity of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as a trader. He married Susan Gunter, a Cherokee woman, and to this union were born Albert and Harry. Albert was the father of John E., who was a farmer and a stock man, and who entered Cherokee politics in early life. He had commenced his second term as sheriff when at the age of thirty, he was shot from ambush at the Fort Smith river landing. He had married Delilah Baldrige, daughter of Blue Baldrige, once sheriff of the

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Sequoyah District and whose son also held the office. The Baldridges were Cherokees, and sometime after her husband's death, Mrs. Johnson married Calvin Fargo. She is again a widow, and living at Vian.

John E. Johnson passed his boyhood days on his father's farm and received his education at the Cherokee Male Seminary at Tahlequah. When he assumed the duties of citizenship he became a farmer himself, cultivating his land and raising stock until he became twenty-one years of age in 1907. He was the first man to hold that office ^(sheriff) under the state government.

In the contest for the Democratic nomination for sheriff there were six candidates, among whom were Mr. Johnson and his uncle by the same name. John E. Johnson won by a fair margin and was elected over his Republican opponent by fifty-one votes, leading the entire county ticket.

Sheriff Johnson was one of the youngest officers in the state. On December 25, 1906, Mr. Johnson married Miss Ida McKinney, daughter of Alexander McKinney, a Cherokee

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and to this union were born two children, Albert and Sidney. The father took his family allotments near Gano, Oklahoma, where he has a nice home located on his farm.