

INDEX CARDS

McLemore, William
Law enforcement--Cherokee

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

February 27, 1937

337

E. F. Dodson
Field Worker

Interview: Andrew Fields

A HAPPENING AT FLINT COURT HOUSE IN 1876

William (Bill) McLemore, a Cherokee citizen of Flint District, C. N. I. T., had been convicted on murder charges. As was usual, his coffin had been made, the scaffold built and all preparations made for the execution by hanging.

It was a fine spring day. A throng of people were gathered, when a wagon drove up with McLemore sitting on his coffin in the wagon. McLemore still maintained his innocence, but the sheriff prepared to execute the condemned man. He led him upon the scaffold, placed the rope around his neck, placed the black hood over his face and asked him if he had anything to say. He said, "Yes, you can't hang a good man". Then the sheriff was ready to spring the trigger which would send the condemned man into eternity, but looking over the throng of people that had gathered close around the scaffold, he beheld a man on horse back, waving a paper in his hand and who seemed to be urging his tired horse to do his best. The sheriff decided to wait to see what he wanted. The man was McLemore's father, who had ridden from Tahlequah with a pardon from the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

McLemore then went back home rejoicing with his family and friends. He lived to be an old man. He was a prosperous farmer and stock raiser and was a good citizen.