

INDEX CARDS

Payments--Cherokee

Citizenship--Cherokee

Mercantile establishments--Cherokee Nation

Tablequah

Drunkenness--Cherokee Nation

Town Government--Cherokee

Family life--Cherokee

Crime--Cherokee Nation

Law enforcement--Cherokee

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

February 18, 1937

Interview: James B. Layne

Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Mr. James B. Layne, who lives at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, was born August 4, 1883 at Springfield, Mo. He is a white man.

Father - Wm. H. Layne

Mother - Sarah A. Layne

Mr. Layne has been here fifty years, in Cherokee County forty-four years. He came here before his parents did. His father was in the Civil War. He served under General Price. He was in some very important battles.

HANGINGS AT TAHLEQUAH

When I came to Tahlequah District, Zeke Parris was sheriff, and D. W. Busheyhead was Chief. Ezekiel Still was the first man I got acquainted with, he was always on guard at the payments. John L. Adair was second to Chief D. W. Busheyhead.

After the Civil War, the Cherokees had court but did not have any council. I know John Watkins, Attorney, over at Muskogee. He got his right to the Cherokee Rolls at that time and he was a white man. Several white men slipped in on the Rolls at that time.

Old man Johnson Thompson ran a store here in Tahlequah, I. T. He sold goods on the strip payment. He could charge the Indians double price on credit. He sold thread at 10 cents per spool.

Anything he sold he doubled on it. He employed me to collect for him during the payment. I collected \$1500.00 for him.

Judge Wyley was steward at the Female Seminary when I came. I am living in the house that Judge Wyley built. There were no telephones here when I came. Ed Hick was the first man to establish a telephone line to Ft. Gibson. The people said that they did not need a telephone line as the white people would be the only ones that could talk. They thought the Indians could not talk.

Old man George Hughes was the first mayor here. I saw him fine a man \$5.00 for feeding his team in the middle of the street.

I have seen full-blood Cherokees come to Tahlequah before the railroad was put in. They would get drunk, ride up and down the street and shoot up the town. The merchants would have to close up their business. If the town marshal would kill the Indian's horse, he would get up behind another man and continue to shoot up the town, until they got sober.

One day I was talking to Ned Christie's uncle. I met him in the road on a horse. In a short while a woman came up, walking and carrying a baby. I asked him who it was and he said it was his wife. I asked him why she was not riding and he said, "Why, she has got no horse."

I saw two Indians kill one another at Flint Court House in 1893. Walkingstick was sheriff. A man named Corntassel, and he

got into a shooting scrape and shot each other and they both died that night. Mr. Webster who lived at Cincinnati was called to wait on them.

I saw eight men hung. They would tie their legs to a post and tie their hands behind them and pull a cap over their heads.

During the war some soldiers would come for my mother to dress their wounds.