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Interview with George Washington Tieskie

by

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George Washington Tieskie grew to manhood in Going Snake District, Cherokee Nation. Attended school at the Baptist Mission and on Tyner Creek Chappel Hill school and later attended the Male Seminary at Tahlequah. While young he entered the teaching profession and taught in the common schools of his district. He was a farmer and also raised stock.

At the age of 26 years he married Miss Sally Walkingstick, a Cherokee woman. There were two children, Annie and Elias. This wife died in 1892. He later married Mrs. Lizzie Sanders, a Cherokee woman, but there were no children from this union. She died in 1910. Later in 1913 he married Lucinda Tyree. To this union there was two children born, Mary and George William Tieskie.

Mr. Tieskie's father was educated by John Thompson Adair at the Male Seminary at Talequah, Cherokee Nation, and graduated from that school. He served in the Union Army and died of pneumonia at Hilderbrands Mill and was buried there and later was taken up and buried at Fort Gibson by the U. S. Government.

Camp Meetings At Peavine.

In early days there were several sheds built at Peavine Church House, which was about four miles north of the present town of Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma. These sheds were used to shelter the people in rainy weather, to cook food under and place camp equipment.

The meetings were in the summer time. People came from miles around, usually in wagons drawn by oxens, loaded with the family, camp equipment, food and feed.

There was always ample food for the people also ample feed for the

stock. And any and all were welcome.

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Mr. Tieskie says that the camp ground was covered with large beautiful native trees, which furnished shade for the people. He relates that one would see the old Cherokee woman seated under these trees, after the cooking and other work was over and that most of them wore either large handkerchiefs on their head or else one of the old fashioned split bonnets. And that when the hour came for service to begin the preacher would say to those outside, "It is time to begin service". Then Mr. Tieskie says you could see those old Cherokee women begin to knock the tobacco and ashes out of their pipes and the old men who have been standing or sitting around throw away their tobacco and orderly march into the house. Then the parson would ask for a song usually from the Old Thomas Hymnal song book. Several songs were sung and then a long sermon followed. He says they were more spiritual than they are now.

George Washington Tieskie was born in Going Snake District, Indian Territory, Cherokee Nation, about five miles northeast of the present town of Westville, Adair County, Oklahoma, near the Old Baptist Mission, December 25, 1862.

His father, George Tieskie, was born somewhere in the same District (Going Snake) that George Washington Tieskie mentioned above was, the exact location not known, about the year 1838. The subject of this interview knows very little about his father, except that he entered the Union Army early in the Civil War and soon contracted pneumonia and died at the old Hilderbrand Mill in Going Snake District and was buried there and later was taken up by the U. S. Government and buried at Fort Gibson.

The mother, Catherine (Foreman) Tieskie, was born near the old Baptist Mission, Going Snake District, Cherokee Nation, Feb. 14, 1839. Died Feb. 14, 1921. Buried in Peavine Cemetery five miles north of Stillwell, Oklahoma.

Medicines

For pneumonia - Butterfly root tea.

For colds - Life everlasting or Rabbit tobacco. Rabbit tobacco was used to smoke too, to relieve colds.

Blackroot - Purgative.

Wauhoo or Indian arrow - Fever, also used to cause vomiting.

Snake bites were treated by herbs and conjuring.

Trading places at Cincinnati, Arkansas, about fifteen miles away and

Tahlequah was about fifteen miles away.