

Chas. G. Watts, Wagoner, Oklahoma. Born, February 8, 1875, Pawpaw, Indian Territory. Parents, William J. and Martha C. Watts. Indian (Cherokee).

MR. WATTS' STORY:

My parents came to Oklahoma in 1868 from Arkansas.

"Came in Ox Wagon, winter of 1868. very bad winter, took about one week to make the trip,

"My father was very generally known as Jeff Watts, and first came to the Indian Territory [sic.] in 1868, but conditions were not so good and after a short stay he returned to Arkansas but came back to the Indian Territory in 1870 or 1871, and applied to the Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation for admission to Cherokee Citizenship. The Watts family and several other families were admitted as citizens of the Cherokee Nation and the family settled in the Cherokee Nation about six miles up the Arkansas River from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, established Pawpaw, I.T. as the post office. The Watts family settled in that part of the Cherokee Nation and were very active in agricultural [sic.] pursuit, stock raising, merchandising, and such like. The families admitted to citizenship, above mentioned, were later cited to appear before what is known as the Adair Court especially created for the purpose of further investigating the admission to citizen-

ship of those admitted and were stricken from the rolls, by reason of their failure to appear before said court. The said families took the position that as they had once been admitted to citizenship a rehearing would be res adjudicata and without authority, thereupon litigation arose between the Watts, Payne, Cobb, Bell, and Goins families, which continued before the Secretary of the Interior and Congress of the United States and other departments of the United States Government until about 1896 when the Dawes Commission, created by Congress, and empowered to here and determine applications for citizenship in the Five Civilized Tribes, rejected their claim for citizenship.

"The Watts family in the Indian country became quite numerous and up until their rejection by the Dawes Commission constituted approximately twenty-five percent of the population of what was then known as Sequayah District in the Cherokee Nation.

"I have in my possession a brief history of the above controversy written and published by my father, who is now deceased, likewise, his scrap book which contains much

early history and thrilling events covering the
early residence of what was known as 'The Intruders in
the Cherokee Nation'. I will be very glad to furnish a
more detailed statement of the above at any time desired."