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(Submitted by Ella Robinson) - January 18, 1937

JOSEPH COODEY

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Born in North Carolina February 15, 1879. On reaching young manhood, he left his native state and went down into Tennessee. Reaching Ross's landing and the Tennessee River near the historic spot, near Lookout Mountain he found the beautiful home of Daniel Ross a Scotchman and his Cherokee wife, Mollie McDonald Ross. He was wonderfully impressed with the beauty of the country but more so with the charming young daughter Jane of Mr. and Mrs. Ross. After a brief courtship they were married. He immediately engaged in the mercantile business and trading and became quite wealthy before the removal of the Cherokees west.

Mr. Coodey was a prominent and influential man among the Cherokees and aided them in material and many other ways. When it became apparent that the Cherokees would be compelled to move west-ward, he accompanied his oldest son, William Shorey Coodey, who was in command of the colony moving westward to their new home in the wilderness. Bringing his family he established his first home on Lee Street, near the present site of Gore. He owned and operated a large Salt works. He was successful in that enterprise as people came as far west as Missouri and Texas for their supply of salt. Fifty wagons waiting for salt was a common sight. Disposing of the Salt Works a few years later he was attracted to the hill country near Tahlequah. He established his permanent home near the Illinois River, near Tahlequah. He again engaged in the mercantile business and in connection owned and operated a grist mill. His home being near that of Chief John Ross, his wife's brother, who came west with the emmigration in 1838; being closely related to the Chief, his home naturally became a popular stopping place with many who journeyed there on business with their Chief. It was the age-long custom of the Indians to extend hospitality to all who came. Often the guests overflowed the

house and were accommodated with beds on the porches; however, entertaining was no hardship as food was abundant and the negro servants did the work. A relative who came for a short visit and stayed six months was no uncommon thing. Mr. Coodey was the principal spirit in the organization in the first Masonic Lodge in the Indian Territory at Tahlequah. He was the father of three sons - William Shorey, who married Elizabeth Fields; Daniel Ross, married Margaret McDonald, a cousin; Joseph McDonald, married Rebecca Thornesberry, a Boston lady. Several years after her death he married Mary Hardridge. There were also six daughters in Mr. Coodey's home. Elizabeth the eldest, married Greenwood LaFlore. Mary, married J.A. Scales. Maria, married John Hawkins. Louise, married Frederick Kerr. Letitia, married Looney Price. Flora McDonald married Lieut. Daniel H. Rucker. She lived only a few years and is ~~married~~^{buried} in the National Cemetery at Fort Gibson. The Scotch had inter-married into the Cherokee Tribe to a large extent, producing a strong stalwart generation, both mentally and physically. Of such blood was William Shorey, who was the eldest son. It was said by those who knew him and also Ex-Senator Robert Owens of Oklahoma that he was the most brilliant man the Cherokee Nation ever produced.

Mr. Coodey's wife, died September 1844. Mr. Coodey died October 11, 1859, at the age of eighty years. He is buried in the Holland Cemetery, near Tahlequah.

P.S. Story given by Mr. Coodey's great grand-daughter, Ella Robinson.