- ROSS, ELIZABETH. A PIONEER RESIDENT AND HIS HOME. #1249752

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

A PIONEER RESIDENT AND HIS HOME. 12489.

Elizabeth Ross, Investigator, December 20, 1938.

> Narrative by Elizabeth Ross On a Pionear Resident and His Home.

Built in 1846, there is yet standing the former home of Looney Price, notable in early day Cherokee history. The old building is situated some seven miles southwest of Tahlequah. The section in which it stands was once a portion of the Tahlequah district, one of the nine subdivisions of the Cherokee Nation.

Looney Price belonged to the Western Cherokee group, having removed from the original Cherokee Nation east of the Mississippi River some years in advance of the great removal of 1838. He was living in the present Oklahoma as early as 1832.

A prominent part was taken by Looney Price, in the summer of 1839, when the eastern and western groups united and formed one government, the Cherokee Nation, which existed until within a few years of the admission of the 46th State. The Act of Union was signed by Looney Price

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as a delegate on behalf of the western group or nation.

When the new Cherokee government became operative, Looney

Price was chosen as Associate Justice of the Cherokee

Supreme Court, but upon being stricken with severe ill
ness in the midst of an important trial, he resigned his

position end did not thereafter aspire to any other

official position.

The Cherokee country was largely in its original state when Looney Price, in 1846, built his home at the border of a large woodland, with a prairie lying southeast. The home was built of large logs from oak trees. These logs after having been hewn to correct dimensions, were "raised" by a number of men and the new house was covered with hand-made boards. A huge stone chimney was added and the house thereafter was occupied several years by its owner and his family.

An accurate description of Looney Price has come down from the bygone time. He was a large man, strong and powerful, or florid complexion, very generous and kindly. No night was too dark, nor the weather too cold

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the call of distress, it has been related of him. If someone were ill and in need of assistance, he lighted his old-fashioned lantern and set out for the purpose of doing whatever he could to alleviate pain and anxiety. In case someone suffered the agonies of toothache, Judge Price, with his forceps, pulled the offending tooth. If some person or persons were in need of the necessities of life, Judge Price relieved them without question or any hesitancy. He was "the good man" of the neighborhood.

Along in 1852, Judge Looney Price decided, for some reason not now definitely known, to move to a distant section of Texas. Soon he filled his wagens with household effects and drove away, never to return. During many years he lived at the small town of Gonzales. It is possible that at the time of his death, during the eighties of the last century, he was the last member of the delegation on behalf of the Western Cherokees who signed the Act of Union on July 12, 1839. He was well past eighty years of age when his life came to its close. His wife was a daughter

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of Joseph Coodey, (himself a notable character) and of Mrs. Jane Ross Coodey, a sister of John Ross, Principal Chief.

At this time (1937) ninety-one years after its completion, the former home of Judge Looney Price is yet
occupied. It is weatherbeaten and time-worn, but the
logs composing the walls are in quite sound condition.
Several years ago, Monty Price, son of the original
owner, visited the old home place. He had once previously come to see the house in which he had lived as a boy.
Without hesitancy Monty Price, though some years past
the age of eighty, pointed out once familiar spots and
stood near an old tree under which he had played prior
to 1852. Monty's full name was Monteguma.