

ROSS, ELIZABETH

TALIHINA HOUSTON

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Elizabeth Ross
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CONCERNING TALIHINA.

The historical fact, that after resigning his position as Governor of Tennessee in 1829, Sam Houston joined the Western Cherokees, is well known to those who have felt interest in the career of a notable character. But a large number of persons, know but little in connection with Houston, and it is from some of such persons that considerable misinformation has emanated.

As an illustration, the allegation has been made that Sam Houston possessed himself of a Cherokee wife during the rather brief period of his stay in the Western Cherokee Country. The name of this alleged wife has been given as "Talihina", at least since 1890. A man by the name of William T. Canup, heard the story while temporarily staying at "ebbers s'ls. Upon his return to Tahlequah, where he was employed as a compositor in a printing office, he announced his intention of writing a romance concerning Sam Houston and "Talihina". Previously, the old-timers, in referring to

- 2 -

incidents and people of the thirties of the nineteenth century called the name "Dinah". Her maiden name was Dinah Rogers, but upon her marriage she became Dinah Gentry. In the course of time, there was a separation. Some have spelled the name Diana. The fullblood Cherokees in their tongue pronounced the term Dinah or Diana, Tyonne.. Why this name instead of "Talihina" was not used by William T. Camp is not known.

He completed a tale, which occupied something more than two columns in a Tahlequah newspaper; and in this tale the name of Dinah, Diana or Tyonne appeared as "Talihina". Thereafter, others who referred to the woman of pioneer Cherokee days in Indian Territory, invariably utilized this fictitious name.

It is a Choctaw term, the meaning of which is "iron rails", reference being to the rails used in building railroads.

The fact that Sam Houston was a member of the Western Cherokee Nation has doubtless caused many to believe that he became a citizen through marriage to

- 3 -

a citizen by blood of that nation. Such, however, is not a fact. On the 31st day of October, 1831, a few months before Sam Houston left the Western Cherokee Country, never to return, the National Council was in regular session at Tah-lon-tee-sky, the capital, near the Illinois river, not far distant from the present town of Gore, Oklahoma, and at the request of John Jolly, the Principal Chief, the Council passed an act which conferred upon Sam Houston the rights of Cherokee citizenship. Had Houston then been married, as some have believed and asserted, to a Cherokee woman, no necessity for the act of the Council would have existed.

In connection with Dinah Gentry she is alleged to have been buried in four separate and distinct places, according to the assertions of various persons. One says she is buried at Skin Bayou Bluff in the present Sequoyah County; another that she was buried a few miles from Webbers Falls; yet another that she was buried at Wilson's Rock on the Arkansas River, and another story is that she is buried near the banks of Flower Creek, in the vicinity of the

old Irons place, a few miles north of Fort Gibson. It has been said that there is probability that burial was really made at the latter place.

Authorities: Captain J. L. Adair, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and others familiar with early day people and history.