

BIGBY, W. J. B. OAK GROVE SCHOOL AND CEMETERY. 13094

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W. J. B. Bigby,
Investigator,
February 24, 1938.

History of Oak Grove School.

The Oak Grove school being a very important landmark in Adair County it would be interesting to know the old history at the beginning of this old time school, church and the cemetery.

This part of Adair County was settled by old settlers; some of the leading Cherokee families came here in 1830. Among these were the Bigbys, Starrs, Adairs, Ghormleys, Gotts and the Riders, these families being prominent in the early days.

The old school, established about 1840, was located a little east of the present church in Section 28, Township 16, Range 26. It was built soon after the Immigrants came but there had been a school a little earlier, according to the old people in the community, what was known as a private school. People who were able to hire a tutor for their own children would allow some of the neighbor children to come, also.

Several years afterwards there was a church established

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at this schoolhouse which was at first a Baptist Church. Later the Methodist Church of the nation took this church and made a Methodist Church. Among the early church workers were the Gotts, Riders and Ghormleys, one of the latter being a preacher at this place.

In this community lived some of the leading Cherokee people, including Jim Bigby, for a long time Circuit Judge for this district. Jim Starr, who was assassinated for his part in the treaty making back east, was killed in this community. Major Ridge, who was also killed in this assassination, was a close friend of Starr and it was supposed it was on one of his visits to Starr that he was killed near Piney, about seven miles north of Oak Grove.

History of Oak Grove Cemetery.

This cemetery was started before the Civil War by the Adair family, supposedly by John Thompson Adair. At one time this famous man operated a large store at Oak Grove.

This cemetery was started about 1838 and is located in Section 34-16-26.

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INSCRIPTIONS:

Ruth Bean	December 17, 1799.	May 1, 1895.
G. W. Adair	September 15, 1837	March 24, 1870.
Ephraim Adair	March 1, 1836.	May 8, 1882.
Michael Ghormley	March 16, 1794.	Dec. 17, 1874
Margaret Gott	February 29, 1816.	December 21, 1871
Matilda Ward	January 16, 1823.	September, 1899.