

INDEX CARDS

Newspapers--Cherokee Nation

Tahlequah

Law enforcement--Cherokee

Drunkness--Cherokee Nation

INFORMANT
Waddie HudsonWRITER
O. C. Davison
95

Waddie Hudson, 2404 Arline, Muskogee, Oklahoma came alone into Indian Territory in 1888 while still a young man and established his home at Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Mr. Hudson was the first associated Press Correspondent in Indian Territory; covering all the cases of legal hangings in the Territory, telephoning his reports to Fort Gibson over a rural telephone system where they were relayed by telegraph to the associated press. Mr. Hudson also has the distinction of being the only white man ever to be editor of the Cherokee Advocate, the official organ of the Cherokee Nation which by its council of fullblood Cherokees sitting at Tahlequah engaged the managers of that publication for periods of two years each. Mr. Hudson is also the Advocate's only living editor who published their newspaper, printed half in the language of the Cherokees and half in English during the years of 1893 and 1896. Another distinction of Mr. Hudson is that of being the first Fire Chief of Tahlequah. The first fire department ever to be organized in the Cherokee capital, the city council gave it the name of the Waddie Hudson Fire Department. He also was president of the first Chamber of Commerce organized in the Cherokee Nation at Tahlequah. Mr. Hudson owned the first independent job printing plant in the Cherokee Nation and also the first independent Cylinder Newspaper press. Among his treasured possessions, he has a personal letter written to his father, Thomas I. Hudson, in 1855 by Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy and also a letter from L.Q.C. Lamar, member of the cabinet of James S. Buchanan dated September 18, 1860. Among his possessions also is a set of old prison shackles which represent punishment and pain of the

INFORMANT
Waddie Hudson

-2-

Writer
G. C. Davison

96

time before reliable prisons were built in the Indian Territory. Mr. Hudson has also as one of his prized possessions the first American flag ever to be unfurled in Oklahoma.

"EVENTS"

The last man to be hanged in the Cherokee Nation was Bob Talton, a young man about 38 years of age for the killing of Jess Eliotte on the streets of Catoosa which is located in the coowescoowee district, the empire district of the Cherokee Nation. Due to the fact that Eliotte came from one of the first families of the Cherokee Nation, it was one of the hardest fought criminal cases ever to be tried in the Cherokee country. Both sides were represented by the most able criminal lawyers the Cherokee Nation ever produced. The tragedy grew out of a feud that had existed for several years. On the morning of

Eliotte drove to town in an old fashioned buckboard and when he alighted and started to hitch his team to one of the public hitching racks, Bob Talton who was drinking at the time, approached Eliotte. When Eliotte extended his hand, Talton with an oath threw his arm around Eliotte and with his left hand almost severed Eliotte's neck with a longbladed knife. Eliotte staggered a few steps and fell and died immediately. On the scaffold located in the prison yard at Tahlequah the capital of the Cherokee Nation on the

Bob Talton payed the penalty with his life. The execution was witnessed by several hundred citizens who were granted special permission to attend the execution, Waddie Hudson, special associated press correspondent, took this statement: "I am a guilty man and am sorry. I was drunk

INFORMANT
Waddie Hudson

-3-

WRITER
O. C. Davison 97

and through an uncontrollable temper I killed my one time friend, and now as I am about to drop into eternity I want to warn every young man under the sound of my voice to stay away from women, gambling and whiskey. May God have mercy on my poor soul." The trap was pulled by George Kca ch, executioner, and Taiton was pronounced dead in a very few minutes.