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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Gus Hummingbird,This report made on (date) May 3, 1937

1. Name Wolfe Coon, by Mary Daniels his daughter.
2. Post Office Address Stilwell, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1850.
5. Place of birth Tahlequah District, Cherokee Nation,

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth Georgia.  
Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth Georgia.  
Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_.

## INTERVIEW WITH MARY DANIELS

FIELD WORKER GUS HUMMINGBIRD.

May 3, 1937

(WOLFE COON)

Wolfe Coon was born on Fourteen Mile Creek, Tahlequah District, in the Cherokee Nation about 1850. His parents came from Georgia in 1838 with the Eastern Immigrants.

Wolfe received a scant education in the poor schools of the Cherokee Nation. But at an early age, he was considered a useful citizen. He held several offices during the Indian Territory days. He was a born politician and never was defeated for any office to which he aspired.

He knew the conditions of the Cherokees in Georgia and North Carolina before the Removal. He has made many interesting speeches concerning his people, pertaining to causes of the different factions that now exist among the Cherokee people. He was a strong supporter of John Ross--Wolfe's father was a personal friend of this famous Cherokee Chief.

Wolfe was raised on a farm on Fourteen Mile Creek, near the present town of Hulbert, Oklahoma. He married Sarah Cornsilk, a Cherokee from Goingsnake District, and to this union there were six children born.

Wolfe lived in Goingsnake District all his life. He died

in 1906. Wolfe was a member of the Baptist Church at Big Shed, later he was ordained a minister.

(FACTIONS)

The Cherokees were divided into several factions. The first division of these Cherokees took place back in Georgia and North Carolina. When the European people came along the Atlantic Coast, they established schools, and educated the Cherokees.

At that time the Cherokee Nation in the east was divided into seventeen districts. Each district elected its own legislature and a "Little Chief" as they were called at that time.

The Principal Chief was also elected to represent all the districts in the Cherokee Nation. This officer was somewhat similar to the present Supreme Court. Any law that was passed by the legislatures of the various districts could be vetoed by said Chief if he declared unconstitutional to the constitution of the Cherokee Nation.

About 1826, three Little Chiefs signed a treaty with the representatives of the United States government. This treaty was the first step toward removal.

Soon after the signing of the treaty these three chiefs and their followers moved west to the Cherokee Nation. The white intruders at once tried to occupy the lands left vacant by the Cherokees. The Ross faction drove them out. At one time there were several whites killed by the Cherokees. Ross at once was notified of the acts of his tribesmen and was asked to sign the treaty to give up lands in Georgia and North Carolina and move west with the other Cherokees who had gone sometime earlier.

To avoid trouble that he saw was sure to come, he called a meeting of all Cherokees, at New Echota, and signed the treaty.

At this meeting the Cherokees demanded the two Ridges, John and Major to be killed, also Elias Boudinot, which was carried out as demanded. They were killed.

These men were supposed to have been killed near Stilwell, somewhere near the old Flint Court House.

(CIVIL W.R)

Another division came among the Cherokees when the Civil War broke out between the states. Most of the Cherokees who had favored the Removal went with the south. The Ross faction remained loyal with the Union. Standwatie, a nephew of Elias Boudinot, was given a command of a regiment of a southern army in the Indian Territory.

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After the close of the Civil War in 1866, the Ross faction of the Cherokees called a Peace Conference of all Cherokees on the banks of the Illinois River near the present town of Gore, Oklahoma.

At this meeting the Cherokees who favored the south were all invited to attend.

Only a few of the Confederate Cherokees were present. A treaty was signed among themselves for neither side to take arms against the United States anymore.

Immediately after this, Political Parties were organized among the Cherokees. This caused another division among them.

This Political division of Cherokees and the Night Hawks that did not believe in voting was the cause of the land of the Cherokees to be allotted.

Wolfe Coon was opposed to this. Soon after the Allotment law was passed he caused President Roosevelt to issue a Proclamation, which gave the common people a right to vote.

The Night Hawks, not voting in this election, caused the defeat of this act.

Soon after this Coon died at his home near Stilwell, now Oklahoma.