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Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Interviewed with Mr. Henry Downing
Nowata, Oklahoma
His Life History.
By Alfred E. Hicks,
Field Worker.

I was born in the Going Snake District in the Cherokee Nation, three miles North of what is now Westville, Oklahoma, Adair County, and ten miles from old Fort Wayne, on April 23, 1874.

I attended school at the old Baptist Mission which was founded by two men by the name of Upham and Jones for the Baptist Church. The main building was burned down during the Civil War, but the building that was used for a school, was a big log building and was left there after all the other buildings were burned. It was a log building with two rooms, but the logs were taken out and made into one building. It was also used for a printing office. I well remember the seats, one of them was a log taken out of the walls of the log build-

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and the other one was a slab sawed out of a log and holes bored in it and legs put on it.

My teacher's name was Perry L. Quarles, maiden name was Bushyhead, and she was one of the first graduates of the old Female Seminary, and she was also a sister of Chief D. B. Bushyhead. Mr. Bushyhead is a grandfather of Dennis Bushyhead, the present State Senator from Claremore, Oklahoma.

I was in the eighth grade when I left this school and I then attended the Male Seminary at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, for one term. After I left school I went home to Westville, and went to work for the K. C. & S. Railroad. Worked for them five years as a section hand, and in 1903 I was made section Foreman for the Frisco Rail Road at Morris, Oklahoma, and worked there six months, then went to the Santa Fe Rail Road as a section hand. Worked there six months and was made Foreman and sent to Owasso, Oklahoma, I was there two years and was sent to Independence, Kansas and run the station there twenty days.

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I was then sent to Bartlesville, Oklahoma. From there to the A. O. & C. Rail Road at Dalina, Oklahoma, as Section Foreman, and was there six months. I then went to the Verdigris Switch for the Frisco Rail Road as Section Foreman. Was then transferred to the Central Division for the same Company located at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where I remained for seven years.

In 1926 I left the Company and went to work for the Victor Gasoline Company at Seminole, Oklahoma. Was with this Company until I had a stroke on July 27, 1927. I then moved to my present home, here in Nowata, in 1928.

I am a relative of the old Chief, Louis Downing, founder of the Downing Party and the first Chief of the Cherokees after the Civil War.

I married Miss Mary V. Ragsdale of Westville, Oklahoma, and have two children.

During the Cherokee Government I lined up with the Downing Party and cast my first vote for Joel B. Hayes,

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for Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. I stayed with the party until Statehood and then cast my vote with the Democratic Party, where I intend to remain, until some Republican starts growing a set of wings. Back in Georgia, these two parties were known as the Riggs and Ross parties.

The Fort I spoke of (Fort Wayne) was inhabited by Southern soldiers in the early part of the Civil War, but was recaptured by the Union Army.

Mr. Downing is a full blood Cherokee Indian.