

HICKS, ALFRED

CHEROKEE ELECTIONS

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 Indian-Pioneer History
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Relics of Election Days in the
 Cherokee Nation Cooweescoowee District.
 (What is now Nowata County).

The ballots were in strange contrast to the ballots of today, There was one for the National Ticket corresponding to the Republican of today, and the Downing Ticket, corresponding to the Democratic Ticket.

They were 2 3/4 inches by 5 3/4 inches in size and contained a list of the candidates. There were no squares in which to vote. The voters merely scratched out those whom he did not wish to vote for. All the candidates were members of the Cherokee Tribe. Below is a list of candidates for the election of the year of 1882.

The National Ticket.

The Downing Ticket.

Senate--C. C. Lipe
 Jess Cochran

Senate--S. H. Mayes
 Wm. Rogers

Council--Dick Duck
 Ice Wilson
 Nelson Foreman
 Dave French
 Sam Charley
 N. B. Rowe
 Looney R. Gourd

Council--George Walker.
 W. M. Jackson
 George Bullette
 Wm. Chambers
 Zeke Taylor
 Jim Alberty

Judge--Van Chambers

Judge--Watt Starr

Clerk--Harden Trott

Clerk--Bill Trott

Sheriff--George Mays

Sheriff--Ed Adair

Solicitor--John Rogers

Solicitor--James Elliott

The Wm. Rogers on Downing Ticket was the last Cherokee Chief, who in 1882 made his home in what is now Tahala.

The George Bullette was an uncle of John McCracken who was elected County Treasurer of Nowata County in the last election.

Mr. Bill Trott's brother, Harden, ran for the same office, being on the National ticket, however; and won by six votes.

The voting place for the north end of the District (now Nowata County) was at Goose Neck Bend, a place on the Verdigris River in the northeast end of the County, near the Kansas line, and the Indians came from all over the north part of the District to vote. They

came horseback as there were no Autos to bring them to the polls, and no Radios to keep them at home.

The boundaries of the District were the Kansas line on the north, the Katy Railroad on the east, the Arkansas River on the south, and the present Osage County line on the west.

Note: The sample Ballots of the list of Candidates is owned by the writer.