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Grant Foreman
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AUNT ELIZA ROSS.

"Aunt Eliza" Ross, widow of John Golden Ross, was nearing her eighty-seventh birthday when she died at her Park Hill home in February, 1876. She was a revered old lady, the last decade of whose lifetime had been spent abed, unable to walk, but her memory was tenacious and her mind clear to the close of life. She recalled many things of interest.

As a child she studied her lessons in a log house her father built in his yard for the benefit of his children. The teacher was the old Scottish Tutor who had instructed her father in his youthful days in Scotland. Andrew Jackson, she had seen as he called at her father's home. Joshua E. White of Savannah, author of "Letters on England", in two volumes, presented her in 1819 with leather-bound copies in his handwriting, "Compliments of the author". The spring near her father's home, nearly in the shadow of Lookout Mountain, produced, she said, clear, cold and sparkling water. This is said to be the same spring described in "St.

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Elmo", from which Edna Earl dipped her pail of water on the morning of the duel in the chestnut grove. Andrew Johnson, tailor, once made a vest for William P. Ross, her oldest son, when he was attending Greenville Academy. At her home in the "Old Nation" she had often hospitably entertained pioneer Methodist and Presbyterian ministers and missionaries. She was almost a lifelong Methodist, but her oldest son was named for the Reverend William Potter, young Presbyterian minister.

Often she spoke of the Reverend J. B. McFerrin, who preached as a young man in Cherokee settlements east of the Mississippi. Many years after, when he had become the distinguished Doctor McFerrin, this minister had occasion to visit the Indian Territory. He arrived at Tahlequah and from that place rode out to Park Hill and called upon the aged woman, several years before her demise.

When the Civil War came she had opportunity of going to a secure and peaceful town in Pennsylvania but firmly declined to leave her sons behind in the war-torn Cherokee Nation. So she remained in the midst of war, famine and great privations, rejoicing at the close of the conflict that all her four boys survived.

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On the day following the death of the oldest woman of Park Hill, funeral services were conducted at her home by the Reverend Stephen Foreman and the Reverend Leonidas Dobson, whose wife was the youngest daughter of the late Principal Chief, John Ross. Interment was made in the family burial ground, now known as the Ross Cemetery.