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Houses--Cherokee Nation

Carpenters--Cherokee Nation

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Indian-Pioneer History

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LOG CABINS

These have long been carpenters of considerable ability among the full-blood Cherokees. Some very substantial houses were built by Indian mechanics even in the early days of the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory.

The more substantial houses were built of large logs of the white oak or the yellow pine. These logs were hewn down to dimensions required and so well fitted that in some instances no interstices were left between the logs, in consequence of which no "chinking" was required.

Upon completion of the houses they were covered with white oak boards which had been rived by hand from sections of the durable timber. Chimneys of stone were then erected and the result was a home which was cool in the summer time and comfortable in winter. Some of the houses were large, some two-storied, and no repairs were required throughout many years.

There were many small houses, some of only

one room, with wooden or "stick" chimneys, their walls composed of small round logs, with the bark adhering. Interstices between the logs of such homes were often "chinked" and plastered over with red clay instead of mortar as in the larger and better houses.

But despite of their humble appearance these houses were quite comfortable, even in the coldest weather. ~~But they were by no means as durable as the~~ larger houses and fell into decay long before the others showed any indication of deterioration.

In these days travelers through the hill regions sometimes find well-preserved specimens of the genuine, full-blood Cherokee homes but many in good state of preservation have been torn down by new owners who have built more modern houses on the old sites.