

ROSS, ELIZABETH

RATION DEPOT.

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"RATION DEPOT"

When the Civil War closed and the widely scattered people of the Cherokee Nation experienced relief from the alarms and dangers of the conflict, those returning and those who had managed to live in their home localities were confronted by want of the necessities of life.

In that contingency, food depots were established at several places and people travelled long distances for the purpose of receiving rations. One of the places selected for the issuance of food products was the large building of the Cherokee National Male Seminary at Park Hill.

Quantities of provisions were hauled in wagons from military headquarters at Ft. Gibson and the people were notified to appear at specified dates and receive their shares. Some of these citizens came from as far as the present town of Westville, in the extreme eastern section of the Cherokee Nation.

Living at this present time, (1937) is an 85-year-old man, who relates that he drove down in a wagon

with other persons from his home, he being a boy, for the purpose of receiving some of the articles issued, included in which was flour, meal, pork or bacon, beans, salt, and the like. When the supply was exhausted another trip was made to the Seminary, the issuance continuing until conditions had become better. The Seminary building had stood vacant during the period of the war except when occasionally occupied by wayfarers who stayed in some part of the building during brief periods only.

Note. Mr. Johnston Parris is the old man who remembers coming down from what is now Westville to the ration depot--Elizabeth Ross.