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THE WOLFE HOTEL AT TAHLEQUAH

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"TRAVELLER'S HOME"

One of the buildings of early days, which stood in Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, until comparatively recent years, was built of large and wide hewn logs of yellow pine. This old house was situated only a short distance west of the present postoffice building; it stood directly east of the old brick building long known as the National Hotel.

This log building was long the home of Jesse Wolfe, and was operated as a hostelry. In times when Tahlequah was an isolated little town, reached only over winding and rugged roads, the hostelry received guests from time to time. Its owner was a son of the first settler on the later site of Tahlequah. This pioneer settler was young Wolfe, half white and half Cherokee, a Methodist preacher, once well-known to people of the early period. There were three sons, John, Thomas B., and Jesse Wolfe. The first named went to California about 1850 or 1852 with the gold hunters and spent the remainder of his life in the "golden west." Thomas B. Wolfe served in a clerical capacity in the National Council at times, practiced law in the Cherokee courts and lived and died at Tahlequah. Jesse Wolfe engaged in various occupations, was once named caretaker of the national buildings, and gave attention to his hostelry.

Today, beyond the height which overlooks Tahlequah from the east, in a long neglected spot, stands a weather-beaten marble stone upon which is inscribed the name of Jesse Wolfe who died in 1876. His age was approximately sixty-three years. The Masonic emblem is engraved upon the stone.

After the death of Jesse Wolfe, his widow lived in the old pine log house for a number of years. The old time-stained sign-board on a pole in front of the door stood until a short time before the hostelry was demolished. The faded legend, "Traveler's Home. J. Wolfe Proprietor," remained sufficiently legible to be read until its removal. Old men and women who recalled the early and eventful years of Tahlequah, related a number of interesting anecdotes in connection with the old building.

Along in 1912-13 and for a few years later, the large front room of the old hostelry was used as a place for the storage of print paper and other printing office material by J. P. and H. E. Hardy, who were engaged in publishing the "Tahlequah Arrow," one of the oldest newspapers of the town. For some time a daily was issued besides the weekly.

When the "Traveler's Home" was finally torn down and the logs hauled away, some rusty and old-fashioned nails were found. These nails had been utilized in portions of the building, such

as floors and sidings where plank was used, and to secure the boards or wide old shingles of the room to the sheeting.

In the early period there were several inns and hostleries to be found in Tahlequah. Although travel was by wagon, horse-back or afoot, quite a number of people arrived in the Cherokee capital during the weeks and months of a year and patronized some one or the other of these stopping places.

Authority: Recollections of early day citizens of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. S. W. Ross remembers when Mrs. Wolfe lived in the old building.