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DUTCHTOWN AND DOGTOWN

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Dutchtown and Dogtown

A number of years ago, when some sections of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, were sparsely populated, two names frequently heard were "Dutchtown" and "Dogtown". These were the names by which were known to many persons a place north of the Tahlequah spring branch, and another place south of the same stream but some distance north of the Cherokee Capitol.

Dogs of various sizes, ages, colors and condition were quite numerous in the somewhat out-of-the-way section north of the branch. Their howling, barking and whining were to be heard both day and night and their disagreements and fights were frequent. Someone, whose name is not now known, considered that "Dogtown" was a fitting designation and thereafter the name was generally used when reference was made to the section mentioned. Even in these days (1937), some old-time resident occasionally recalls some incident concerning "Dogtown". The population in that section is now considerable and the number of dogs greatly less than back in Indian Territory days.

During the eighteen-seventies several natives of foreign countries took up their residence in Tahlequah. Among them was a German, who lived in a thinly populated

spot north of the brick hotel, long known as the National Hotel, and at no great distance from the home of the German there lived a Dane. Each of these men had acquired Cherokee citizenship, having married women who were Cherokees of white and Indian blood. In those days, as well as at the present, many persons designate Germans as Dutchmen, as well as others of whose nationality they are uncertain. In this instance both men were called Dutchmen, and the section in which they lived became known as "Dutchtown". The section is now well populated.

Samuel Schable, the German, lived in Tahlequah during a long period, engaging for some years in boot and shoe making. Once a soldier in Germany, Schable served in the United States Army for some years, and was once stationed at old Fort Snelling, Wisconsin.

Michael Dana, the native of Denmark, engaged principally in buying and selling hides and furs, or pelts of various small animals. He was long a familiar object in country districts in the fall and winter seasons as he rode along the roads in a spring wagon drawn by two horses. Upon purchasing hides and pelts, Dana placed them in his wagon and drove away in quest

of others.

In these times (1937) no one recalls the names of ~~any~~ others who were natives of foreign countries besides those which have been mentioned. A few surviving old-time residents occasionally speak of the place which was called "Dutchtown."

Authority: George Wofford, once a Cherokee Advocate printer. Personal recollection.
