

ROSS, ELIZABETH

CHANGE OF NAME.

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Change of Name..

During a period of more than ten years after the organization and establishment of the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory, in 1839, one of the eight districts originally defined bore the name, Skin Bayou district. This was because of the fact that the bayou of that designation lay within the boundaries of the district. But in course of time a new name was considered and applied.

Sequoyah, or George Guess, originator of Cherokee letters, made his home in the Skin Bayou district for several years, leaving there in 1842 on his journey to Mexican Territory, from which he never returned. Desiring to honor the famous Cherokee, the National Council decided to discard the term, Skin Bayou, and substitute in its place the name, Sequoyah District.

As a consequence, soon after the convening of the Cherokee legislative bodies at Tahlequah, in November 1851, the following action was taken:

"Be it enacted by the National Council, that the name of Skin Bayou be, and the same is hereby changed, and that the said district shall be called

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from and after the passage of this act, Sequoyah; and so much of the act passed November 4, 1840, as militates against this act, be and the same is hereby repealed. Approved.

Tahlequah, November 4, 1851. John Ross"

The act of November 4, 1840, was that which had bestowed the name of Skin Bayou upon the district which eleven years later became Sequoyah District, a name which was retained in following years until the dissolution of the Cherokee Government.

Appropriately, when the counties of the new State of Oklahoma were being selected and applied, the name of Sequoyah was retained as that of the County in which is embraced the portion of land which had composed the old Sequoyah District.

From the Skin Bayou or Sequoyah District George Guess made occasional trips to other sections of the Cherokee Nation sometimes visiting friends in the Park Hill locality. The last of such trips to this place was in 1842, not long before the departure of Sequoyah on his journey toward the southwest.

Several places of consequence in the early day history of the Cherokee Nation lie within the bound-

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aries of the old Skin Bayou or Sequoyah District.

Among them the site of the Sequoyah home, a log cabin, which is yet standing and is now protected from the ravages of weather conditions.

Sequoyah arrived in the present Sequoyah County with others of the Western Cherokee group which removed from down in Arkansas Territory under terms of the Treaty of 1828. Of that treaty Sequoyah was one of the signers.

authority: Laws of the Cherokee Nation printed in 1807; accounts of Sequoyah's career, recollections of pioneer Cherokees.