

NANCE, R. Y.

INTERVIEW

2146

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Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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Field Worker

Interview: R. Y. Nance

KILLING OF WAUHOO HAMPTON BY U. S.
MARSHAL CHARLIE COPELAND

This story was told to R. Y. Nance by Copeland and to us by R. Y.

Nance.

Back a short time after the Civil War there was an outlaw by the name of Wauhoo Hampton who was wanted by the officers on charges of murder and other crimes.

Hampton was not only brave but very cunning, making it very difficult to capture him. He was a full blood Cherokee, living in the hills of what is now Adair County, Oklahoma. He, of course, knew the country and had his friends all of which made it still more difficult to get him. We are told by those who knew him that he made it a rule to let no one meet him on the road, unless he knew them to be his friends, for he always made use of his keen sense of hearing and keen eyesight, so when he was about to meet someone, if he was not sure who it was, he would ride out to one side until the person had passed or until he was sure it was a friend. If the person happened to be a friend, Hampton would come back into the road, smiling, and perhaps talk to the person.

Charlie Copeland, a U. S. Marshal, determined to capture him so he made several trips into the country where Hampton frequented, and thought he could capture him several times, but each time without success until some one who knew Hampton and knew where he usually stayed, told Copeland just where Hampton was staying, also guided him near the place. Copeland proceeded on, thinking to go on to the house, but just before he came to the house, he heard someone coming, meeting him on horseback. This was about daybreak, so Copeland just rode out to one side of the road and the man who came meeting him proved

to be Hampton. Copeland, when Hampton was about even with him, ordered him to halt and when he did so, Hampton slid off his horse under the horse's neck, thinking to protect himself behind the horse, but just then Copeland fired and Hampton fell dead.