

HOLDENVILLE TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL ON ROLY McINTOSH

A party of people were journeying to Muskogee recently on the Midland Valley when the new and prosperous town of Porum was passed and one of the gentlemen; who is a well known Creek Indian, casually asked if any in the party knew that Porum located in the Cherokee nation, might have been in the Creek nation but for a twenty-five cent cow bell.

Pressed to relate the story he entertained the party with the following:

"Many years ago before the dividing lines of the different nations were determined, the government sent to this country commissioners who, in conjunction with the principal chiefs and their advisors, were to determine the boundaries of the Creek and Cherokee nations.

The Creeks who had recently moved here had gone

over the country and decided they wanted for the east boundary the Arkansas river, as the land in what is now known as the Canadian district was very rich. The Cherokees also wanted this same land, but had very little hopes of getting it, as Roxly McIntosh, who was Chief of the Creeks was all powerful and would make a strong effort to have the boundary fixed as his people wished.

At the appointed time for the great council, Indians of both tribes together with their whole families, dogs and ponies, gathered at a convenient place near the river, and were on the following day to confer with the commissioners and decide upon the boundaries.

At the time the Indians had all their ponies supplied with a common twenty-five cent cow bell which was suspended around the ponies' necks in order that when turned out to graze they could be easily found. On the day set for the council, the Creek chief's pony returned to camp minus its bell. This fact worried the chief greatly, and finally he started to search the surrounding land in an effort to discover the lost bell. He became so engrossed in the search that he

wandered far from the council grounds, and upon returning a few hours later found that the council had been held, the Cherokees had gained their victory and had placed the boundary line in such a direction as to give them the rich Arkansas Valley, so much wanted by the Creeks.

But for the loss of this cow bell the Creek nation would have been \$100,000 richer and what is now the Canadian district in the Cherokee nation, would have been a part of the Creek nation.