

destination, as a place to stop and rest. Here in an open field which tradition has was level and completely cleared of stumps or any other matter which might effect movement. The Indians met for games requiring speed and skill. This field while large enough was not used for agricultural pursuits. Its presence was actually multi-purpose, it could serve for large assemblies or for tribal dances. "Old Tisa Willa" as the spring is known to this day, had been filled with long poles driven into the earthen bottom. It was soon clear to the new arrival that this watering place was regarded as a religious omen and the Indians, however, friendly frowned upon the whiteman's attempted use of it.

Their burial grounds were large and located further south and west along the north bank of this creek. Some of the pottery removed from these graves in 1930 were found manufactured similar to the types used by other pioneers.

After the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Yell county was to witness several miserable processions of Indians struggling on foot through the rock hills toward Indian Territory. Historians have called this unfortunate incident "The Trail of Tears." Large numbers were brought up river by boat while others marched overland to reservations, often leaving a tail of unmarked mounds for others to follow. It would seem that only a small part of this tragic event did occur in our county, but it is certain that many of our Indian neighbors knew the personal tragedy of their fellow travelers. One such group of Indians landed at the "Rock" remained there several days to go overland through the gap or low saddle between Mt. Nebo and Jones Mountain as we know it today. Here in the vicinity of this saddle can be found a spring rushing from beneath Jones Mountain to form a watering place, then below this pool another one could be found for washing and bathing. This particular group had as their immediate destination Chickalah Village. Remaining here to rest, tradition has it that they did ask for a missionary or preacher. From this

Dardanelle Rock

act it can be assumed that they had come under the influence of the white man's religion. Such a course these people followed led from the Rock, through Chickalah, Lower Spring Creek, thence to the settlement of Dutch, chief of another Cherokee tribe. While the date of this incident is unrecorded, word from mouth to ear, from father to son, has kept it alive and no one can emphatically deny that such a procession did not actually traverse this county.

It is a well known fact that in November 1836, that great numbers of Indians were stopped in Pope County, they had interpreted a treaty they had signed as meaning they could stop west of the Mississippi River. Since Yell County was a part of Pope at that time it could mean that some of these redmen were attempting to resettle here. Rumors were quick to spread that the Indians were dangerous and a volunteer unit was organized, for the protection of the county (I IBID Oct. 4 1836). Composition of such a force is uncertain, and the following commissioned personnel is presented by townships as they existed in 1835, as taken from the Register of Military Commissions, Fourche LaFave, Aikman, Alexander, 1st Lt. Allbright, William J. 1st Lt. Light Horse Co., Brown, John, Surgeons Mate, Dardanelle Township, Stinnett, Henry, Major, Englebright, James, Captain: Burkhead, Nathaniel, 1st Lt. Sougrain, Alfred, Judge Advocate, and Magazine Township, Bird, Andrew, Captain, Fort, Jackson, 2nd Lt. From this list of commissioned officers it is to be assumed that such an organization would include a force of enlisted men, however their names were unavailable. There were no incidents between this organization and the Indians of note.

Nuttall the Historian wrote of Drope's boat as "Large and commodious trading boat of twenty five tons burden". He described its activities as "preceeded up river with numerous halts." According to his statements Drope had several boatmen who mixed with the natives at every stop. (See page 17)

There seems to have been several head of families by name of Morse, John Julian Morse took up for no consideration 40 acres in Section 32, township 7 Range 20 West, 16 Jun 40. The for no consideration tends to indicate that he was of Indian blood. On 4 January 1841 sale of this property was made to John B. and Thos Johnston, both single men for a sum of \$5,000. The west boundary of this transaction is recognized as 3rd Street, in what was early known as W. M. H. Dawson addition. (See Page 24)