

# Trader V. B. Tims of Doaksville



Who was **V.B. Tims**? We all remember the name DOAK – a name that is ingrained into our Choctaw culture for many reasons. It was **Doak's Stand** where the hotly-disputed Treaty of Dancing Rabbit was signed in 1830, calling for the removal of the Choctaw Indians. It was the man **Josiah S. Doak** who in 1831 established the first trading post near the military outpost of Fort Towson. It was the trading post for which **Doaksville** was named, the Choctaw community that grew up around the trading post and the fort in a vast, unsettled wilderness.

But very few of us recall the name **Vincent Brown Tims**. It may surprise many of you to learn that Mr. Tims was the partner of Josiah Doak and that the trading post was actually known at the **Doak and Tims** trading post. Born in South Carolina, V.B. Tims is said to be of Irish descent. Mr. Tims came with Josiah Doak sometime in the early 1830s, prior to the Choctaw Removal, to set up the mercantile store that would provide essential items to the incoming Choctaws.

The **Doak and Tims Partnership** also served another important function. The two partners contracted with the U.S. government to supply government rations to the immigrant Choctaws, and later distributed the annuity payments, or “treaty money” owed to the Choctaws in exchange for their Mississippi lands.

“The trading establishment of Josiah Doak and Vinson Brown Tims, an Irishman, had the contract to supply the Indians their rations, figured at 13 cents a ration. A motley crowd always assembled at Doaksville on annuity days to receive them. Some thousands of Indians were scattered over a tract of nearly a square mile around the pay house. There were cabins, tents, booths, stores, shanties, wagons, carts, campfires; white, red, black and mixed in every imaginable shade and proportion and dressed in every conceivable variety of style, from tasty American clothes to the wild costumes of the Indians; buying, selling, swapping, betting, shooting, strutting, talking, laughing, fiddling, eating, drinking, smoking, sleeping, seeing and being seen, all bundled together.” ~~from Alvin Goode, missionary

Doaksville quickly evolved into the government seat for the new Choctaw Nation. In 1837 the first post-removal treaty was negotiated. Sometimes called the Treaty of Doaksville, the treaty

defined relations between the Choctaws and Chickasaws, forced to occupy the same lands in the Indian Territory. Six white men signed the treaty, among them **Josiah S. Doak and Vincent B. Tims**.

In testimony whereof, the parties hereto have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals, at Doaksville, near Fort Towson in the Choctaw country, on the day and year first above written.

In the presence of –

Wm. Armstrong, Acting Superintendent Western Territory,

Henry R. Carter, Conductor of the Chickasaw Delegation

Josiah S. Doak,

Vincent B. Tims,

Daniel McCurtain, United States Interpreter,

P. J. Humphreys,

J. T. Sprague, Lieutenant U. S. Marine Corps,

In 1843 Vincent B. Tims, as a sole businessman, acted as a remote office for letters to the “Agent For Claims” regarding unpaid accounts, and land/bounty claims.

**To Claimants,**  
**THOMAS S. BRYANT,**  
*(Late of the U. S. Army.)*  
**AGENT FOR CLAIMS,**  
 Attorney and Conveyance,  
**WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.**

**W**ILL attend to all business connected with the various Departments of the General Government, especially Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Cherokee claims, and of all accounts of Disbursing Agents or officers of the United States.

Land and Bounty claims will also engage his special attention.

From his extensive acquaintance with business of the above nature, he is confident of giving every satisfaction to those who may require his services, having full access to all means of information in relation thereto.

Letters (postage paid) on business, to the above address, will receive prompt attention.

REFERENCE.

J. H. HEARD,	}	<i>Fort Smith, Ark.</i>
W. H. & M. MYERS,		
Capt. JNO. ROIGERS,	}	<i>Little Rock, Ark.</i>
PITCHER, OFFICER & Co.,		
Maj. D. BUTLER,	}	<i>Van Buren, Ark.</i>
GEO. W. CLAIKE, Esq.,		
GRANDISON D. ROYSTON, Esq.,	}	<i>Washington, Ark.</i>
Maj. W. ARMSTRONG, <i>Choctaw Agt.</i>		
Col. A. M. URBAN, <i>Chickasaw Agt.</i>	}	<i>Doak's, Choctaw N</i>
Gov. A. YEL.		
V. B. TIMS, Esq.	}	<i>Doak's, Choctaw N</i>
BERTHLETT, HEALD & Co.		

September 7, 1844.

Arkansas

Intelligencer, March 1843

In 1844 the partnership between Josiah S. Doak and V.B. Tims dissolved by mutual agreement as announced in the local newspapers.

## Dissolution.

**T**HE CO-PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing at Doaksville, C. N., between J. S. DOAK and V. B. TIMS, under the firm and style of Doak & Tims, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of said firm to be settled up by V. B. Tims.

JOSIAH S. DOAK,  
VINC'T B. TIMS.

February 1st, 1844.

V. B. Tims will continue at No 1, Merchants Row, Doaksville, where he will at all times be pleased to see his friends.

—  
THE undersigned takes pleasure in informing his friends, that he is located in No. 2, Merchant's Row, Doaksville, where he has on hand, a large and well assorted stock of merchandise, which he will sell cheap for cash.

JOSIAH S. DOAK.

## JOSIAH S. DOAK,

Commercial Row, Doaksville, Choc. Nation.

**T**AKES pleasure in informing his friends, that he has located at the above stand, in Doaksville, where he has on hand a large and well assorted stock of merchandise, which he will sell cheap for cash.

### DRY GOODS,

Consisting of 3 and 4 quarter brown domestic, 3 and 4 quarter bleached do., 3 and 4 quarter bed ticking, 3 and 4 quarter apron check, long cloths; plain and twilled shirting; brown drillings, negro shirtings; Fall River and Merimac blue prints, fancy colored do.; muslin de laine, shalla, bombazine, English and French merino, Irish linen;

**Kentucky Jeans, Hardtimes, Linseys, Flannels and Sattinets.**

Linen and cotton thread, spool cotton, cotton yarn, ladies fancy handkerchiefs, pongee, Spitalfield and English do.; black silk cravats; silk and twist, ribbons, tapes, braids, laces &c., &c.

**Assorted Mackinaw and Colored Blankets,**

### Hardware and Queensware,

### HATS, CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES.

Hunts, Collins' and King's axes, trace chains, hoes, knives and forks, Carpenters tools, butts and screws, coffee mills.

### IRON, STEEL, CASTINGS &c., &c.

Together with every article usually kept by traders in this part of the country, all of which he will sell upon the most liberal terms.

May 8, 1844.—14—ly.

Arkansas

SEABORN HILL, THOS. B. EASTLAND, ALF. W. GREEN.  
**HILL, EASTLAND & CO.,** Com-  
 mission, Receiving and Forwarding Merchants,  
 and General Agents, No. 42 & 43 New Levee street,  
 New Orleans.

Refer to Benj. Story, Alex. Grant, W & J Gasquet,  
 New Orleans; L M Wiley & Co, R Hyslop & Son, New  
 York; Siter, Price & Co, Philadelphia; Whitridge &  
 Co, Baltimore; Blain, Tompkins & Barrett, St. Louis;  
 Johnson, Weaver & Co., C. Connor, Walker & Ed-  
 wards, Nashville, Tenn.; Hill, Dawson & Co., Apala-  
 chicola, Fa; John Fontaine, Columbus, Ga.; Wm Arm-  
 strong, Choctaw Agency, V. B. Tims, Fort Towson,  
 Arkansas. jy2-3m

*The Times-Picayune* , July 1844

Perhaps reflecting the decline in population at the nearby fort, Mr. Doak appears to be liquidating his holdings at bargain prices, while V.B. Tims was strengthening his business connections in the area. On April 24, 1846, Mr. Doak filed a Deed of Conveyance in Red River County, Texas, transferring ownership of ten slaves to his son William H. Doak of Clarksville, further liquidating his holdings, or perhaps guarding against creditor claims.

## **Josiah S. Doak and Descendants**

Of the merchant Josiah S. Doak, there is no further news. A divorce record exists between him and his wife Elizabeth (Dresser), granted 1849 in McKinney, Texas, after twenty-three years of marriage. A witness for the divorce proceedings, George W. Clarke, was a son-in-law, having married their adopted daughter, Malvina. Mr. Clarke was the former newspaper editor for the *Arkansas Intelligencer* in Van Buren, Arkansas.

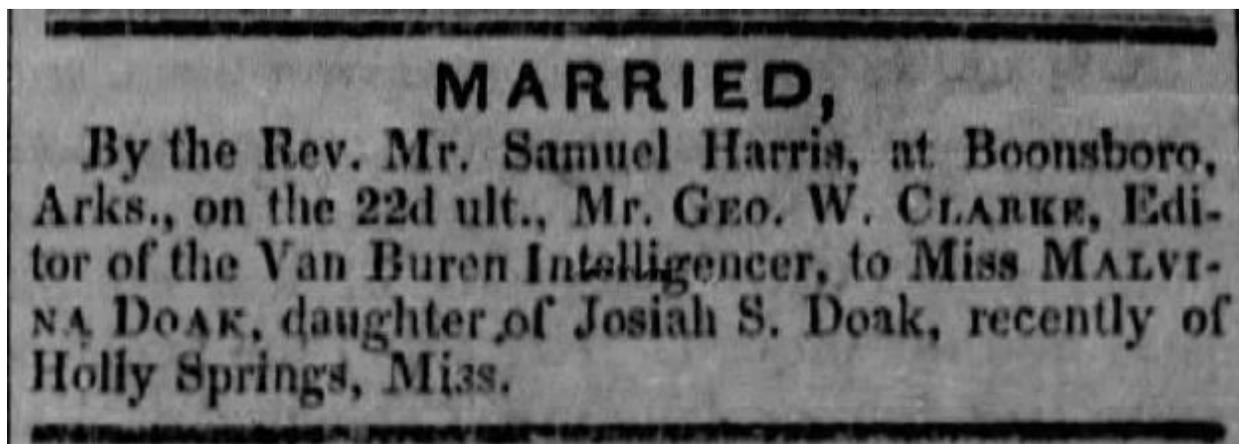
STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COLLIN.

ELIZABETH DOAK } IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
VS. } PETITION FOR DIVORCE  
JOHN S. DOAK. } AND ALIMONY.

Public notice is hereby given that on or after the thirtyeth day after the publication of this notice, a commission will issue from the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the County and State aforesaid, to take the depositions of S.M. James, resident residing near Clarksville, in Red river County, and State of Texas. John McKinzie, residing near the same place in said county and State. Mrs. Goodloe residing near the same place in said county and State, and George W. Clark residing in Van Buren, in the State of Arkansas, in answer to certain Interrogatories on file in this office, to be read in evidence in the above entitled case at the next Term of said court, to be held at the Court House, in the Town of McKinney, on the 8th monday, after the 3rd monday, in October.

Witness my hand and private Seal, a scrawl there being no seal of court yet provided. This 26th day of September, A.D, 1849.

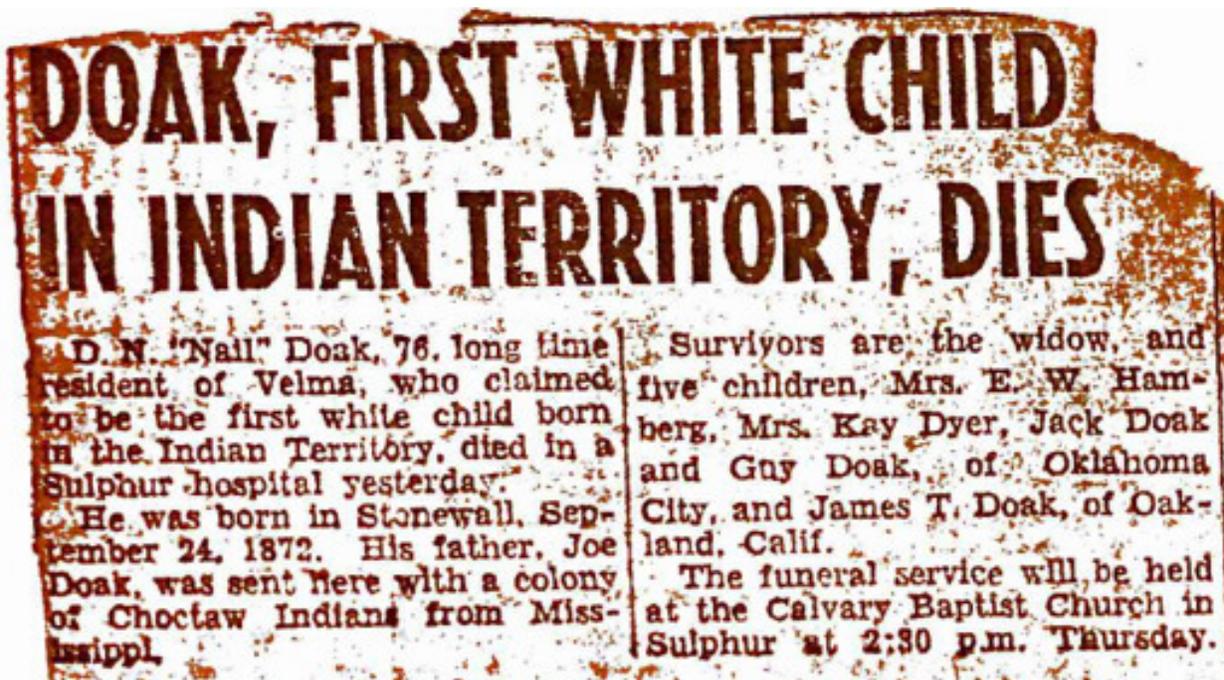
{ L. S. } J. B. WILMUTH, Clerk of the District Court of Collin County, by his deputy, ALEXANDER BERRY.



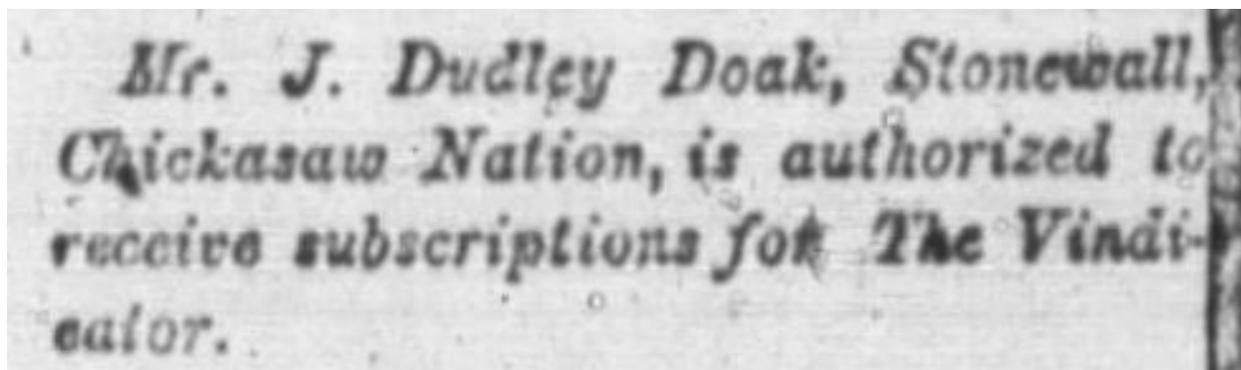
*The Arkansas Banner, July 1844*

Mr. Josiah S. Doak is said to have left Indian Territory for his health. He died near Corpus Christi, Texas about 1865 [according to testimony given by a grandchild, Georgie Clarke, before the Dawes Commission in 1903 (from Application Packet MCR-7344)].

Josiah Doak seems the type of man to inspire myths and legends. One legend is that in 1872 he fathered the first white child, Dudley N. Doak, in Indian Territory, well after his divorce and reputed death in Texas in 1865 – a story that Mark Twain would have appreciated.



By 1875 there were quite a lot of residents named Doak in the Indian Territory. It is understandable that confusion arises. We do have evidence of a man named J. Dudley Doak living in Stonewall in 1875 who could have been the real father of "Nail" Doak. Some report that he was born to Josiah and Elizabeth Doak, about 1830 at Doaksville.



The Vindicator, March 1875

The whereabouts of two other sons of Josiah Doak are known. Mentioned already is **William H. Doak**, a resident of Red River County, who is buried at the [Doak Cemetery](#) there (most likely his old farmland). Another son, **Alexander V. Doak**, after residing in various parts of Texas, took up residence in Ardmore, where he is buried at [Rose Hill Cemetery](#). His son, William G. Doak, was an early city manager at Ardmore. Another son Claude, became an Ardmore doctor, but details of his final days are not known.

**Malvina Doak Clarke**, following her newspaper husband, died around 1864 in Bexar County, Texas. Mr. George W. Clarke died in Mexico City in 1881 after starting an English version of a Mexican newspaper called Two Republics. Their daughter, Georgie Clarke, our Dawes Commission witness, once a resident of Texas, ended her days in Los Angeles, dying on March 21, 1943. Both she and her brother Joseph Magtella Clarke, remembered well their colorful pioneer heritage.

ers. It was feared at the time that the death of Major Clarke would cause the suspension of the paper, but we are happy to say that such is not the fact. The control of that able and pioneer American paper has passed into the hands of his elder son, Mr. J. Mastella Clarke, a young man of splendid abilities, born at Fort Smith, Arkansas, but resident in Mexico for fifteen years, and as true a son of the United States as ever lived. His whole lineage teems with the spirit of progress. His mother was a daughter of that venerable old northwestern pioneer, the founder of Doaksville in the Choctaw nation. His father, though born in the district of Columbia, from his earliest manhood, was in the advance guard of civilization in western Arkansas, the Indian Territory and Kansas, and, when the war closed, only shifted his field of labors to the capital of Mexico.

Dallas Herald, April 1881

### **Vincent B. Tims and Descendants**

Unlike Josiah Doak, Vincent B. Tims and his full-blood Choctaw wife remained at Doaksville for the rest of their lives. Vincent continued his community involvement, representing the Doaksville area for the Great Raft Convention in 1847. The purpose of the convention was to petition the U.S. Congress for appropriations to keep the Red River channel unobstructed and reliably open to steamboat commerce. Delegates from nearby Texas and Arkansas counties were in attendance as well as two special invitees from the Choctaw Nation – Vincent B. Tims and

Joseph R. Berthelet, former partner of Choctaw plantation farmer Robert M. Jones. In 1861 Mr. Tims was also designated to be the Indian Agent for the Choctaws if the Confederate States had won the War Between the States.

## MEETING OF THE RAFT CONVENTION AT CLARKSVILLE.

Convention met, at the court-house, in Clarksville, Texas, on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock, and organized.

On motion of N. D. Ellis, Esq., the Hon. John T. Mills was unanimously appointed President, and on motion of William Trimble, Esq., Charles De Morse and George F. Lawton Secretaries.

There were present, as Delegates:

On motion of Capt. T. G. Wright, Messrs. Jos. R. Berthelet and Vincent B. Tims of the Choctaw Nation, and Capt. Bickerstaff of the steamer Victress, were invited within the bar, to participate in the action of the convention.

*Washington Telegraph, Dec 1847*

**Vincent B. Tims** died June 14, 1864 at Doaksville according to his descendants. But from the few surviving public records of that time, we know he was named postmaster at Doaksville on May 17, 1871. Another mystery! He would have been about 68 years old.

Doaksville Vincent B. Tims 17 May 1871

from Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971

The names of three of his children have survived: **Vinson W. Tims**, born 1838, and **Edward Ward Tims**, born 1842, and a daughter Phoebe, who died in obscurity prior to final enrollment.

First-born son, **Vinson W. Tims**, with his wife Emaline chose a quiet life, farming in the High Hill area to the north of Doaksville. One of their sons, James B. Tims, gave an interview in 1937, wherein he described his parents, Vinson and Emaline, living 6 or 7 miles north and a little west of Doaksville in the old Towson County. The property later became know as the Charley Blankenship place. James described the V.B. Tims' stand in Doaksville (on Merchants Row) as being in front of the old rock jail, whose foundations are still evident today.



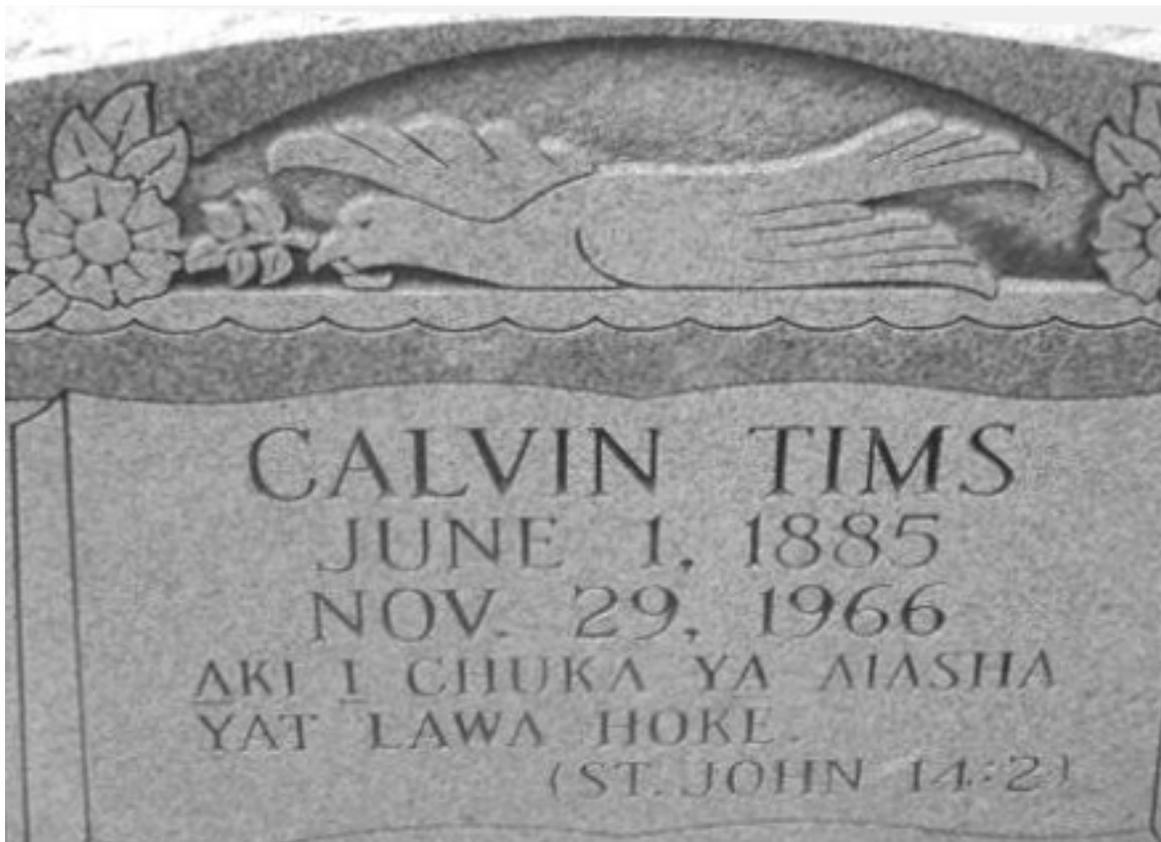
Old Jail Foundation at Doaksville Townsite

[Vinson](#) died in 1891. His wife [Emaline](#) lived to become Choctaw Enrollee #1947 (Census Card 778) and died in 1918.



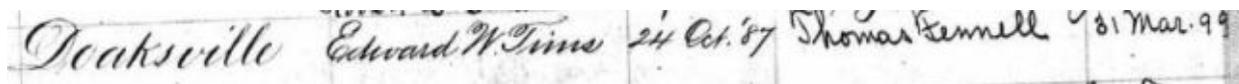
Emaline Steadman Tims

Their children – James, Mitchell, Betsy (wife of Joseph Thompson), John, Rev. Robert Tims, Willie, Rosie (wife of James Wilson), and Calvin – became familiar faces in the Spencerville and Fort Towson areas.



Headstone at Hampton Chapel Cemetery

Second-born son, **Edward Ward Tims**, chose a life of public service. In the early 1880s, he was District Trustee of the Apukshunnubbee District. Like his father, he was appointed postmaster of Doaksville on October 24, 1887, succeeding a man named James T. Fleming.



from Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971

He also served many years as County Judge for Towson District prior to statehood.

Judge E. W. Tims married twice: first to a full-blood Choctaw named Polly; then to an Arkansas woman, Willie Jane Maxwell, on April 19, 1888 at Doaksville. Edward and Willie Jane (Maxwell) raised seven children in the Doaksville/Fort Towson area: Lucy Ann (Jackson), Minnie (wife of James T. Cross), Edmond, Benjamin, Myrtle (wife of Wheeler C. Billings), Abel, and Nora (Vancil). Only the oldest child, Lucy Ann, stayed in the Hugo area, with her son Eddie McDaniels.

Edward and Willie's oldest son, Private Edmond Tims, at age 25, gave his life in the World War I conflict. He served in the 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. He died in the brutal Allied October 1918 offensive and is buried overseas in the [Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery](#).



Headstone at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, France

Judge E.W. Tims retired from public life after statehood and moved to his allotment southeast of Hugo. He died Feb 7, 1923, four months after his wife, and was buried at [Springs Chapel Cemetery](#) next to her grave.

At one time his old log cabin home was being considered for a Fort Towson Museum because of its historical significance to the Choctaw Nation. From the text of the newspaper story below, it appears that the old log cabin was originally the trading post of his father, the Irish trader V.B. Tims.

Judge Hunter say the ancient log house, one quarter of a mile northeast of Ft. Towson, which was the former home of Judge E. W. Tims, is scheduled to become the home of the museum.

Tims, a prominent Choctaw citizen, was once county judge of Towson County, I. T. and was once considered for the position as principal chief of the Choctaw Nation. After living for the greater part of his life at Ft. Towson, Tims later moved to his allotment southeast of Hugo where he died after statehood.

In referring to the Tims house as a likely home for the museum, Judge Hunter said "There is no question but that many tribal matters were discussed there, these including the Choctaw Council in 1860, the treaty of 1837 and many other important affairs of the Choctaws and Chickasaws."

The Paris News,

January 1940

Maybe one of these days, history will correct itself, and we all will remember the "legendary trader Vincent B. Tims."

All in all, the Tims family tree holds great significance for Choctaw history. To all the Tims descendants, we say *Yahoke!*