

John Looney (- 16 May 1846)

The National Intelligencer, May 18, 1846

Died, at Fuller's hotel, on Friday morning, at a quarter past 8 o'clock, Captain John Looney, a member of the delegation representing the Cherokee Nation now in this city on business with the United States Government.

Captain Looney was the nephew of the celebrated chieftain Enolce, or Black Fox. He was about seventy years of age, and distinguished as a brave, honest, and good man. He has ever been a firm and unwavering friend to the whites, and to the civilization of the red race. During the war with the Creek Indians, he joined the Cherokee regiment which co-operated with the American army under the command of General Andrew Jackson, and at the battle of Tallodega he received a severe gun-shot wound from the enemy, and for which disability he had been allowed a pension for life by this Government; and after the treaties of 1817 and 1819 he removed with his family and many others of his people, to the new country acquired by the Nation from the United States, west, by virtue of the exchange of land which took place under the treaties mentioned. To the treaty of 1828 his signature will be found as one of the subscribing negotiators. He has held many conspicuous offices, posts of honor, and trust among his people; and, after the death of John Jolly, he was the only surviving legitimate chief in power under the "Old Settlers," or "Western Cherokees," when the Cherokee Nation from east of the Mississippi removed and arrived in their new country west, in the spring of 1839.

In the measures pursued for the preservation of peace, harmony, and brotherhood, and which led to the adoption of the Act of Union that made the Eastern and Western Cherokees again a united people under the present existing Government of the Cherokee Nation, Captain Looney, as a true patriot and friend to the prosperity and happiness of his people, acquitted himself wisely, and gained the full confidence of not only his own immediate constituents, the "old settlers," but also of the new emigrants from their ancient country east of the Mississippi. He has left a very worthy and respectable family and numerous friends to mourn his loss. For some days previous to his death he appeared to be conscious that he could not recover from his sickness; and, in a conversation on the subject, he remarked that he had fully made his peace with his Maker; and that he did not in the least fear to die, whenever it should please him to take his spark of life away; that the great and the powerful, the humble and the weak, were alike all doomed, sooner or later, to the same end, and he knew that death awaited all.

C.D.