

JUN 7, 1917

STATUE UNVEILED

INDIAN SCHOLAR

Lived at New Echota, Devised Cherokee Alphabet

As Oklahoma's first contribution to statuary hall, at the Capitol, there will be unveiled Wednesday morning a statue of an American who never attended school and who could neither read nor write the English language, but who is notable in history for distinguished educational and civic service. The statue is that of Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet.

The ceremony of unveiling the statue and presenting it to the United States will be participated in by the entire Oklahoma delegation in Congress. The presentation speech will be by Gov. R. L. Williams of Oklahoma, and Speaker Clark will make the speech of acceptance. Miss Ahnawake Hastings, daughter of Representative Hastings, will unveil the statue.

Sequoyah's English name was George Guess, a corruption of Gist.

GUESS GEORGE
CALLHOUS TIMES JUN 7, 1917

He was the son of a full-blooded Cherokee woman and a German trader named George Gist. The trader abandoned his wife before Sequoyah was born. Sequoyah—the word means "guessed it"—was born in Georgia about 1770. When he was a young man he took an active part in hunting and fishing, as well as sports, and became a leader of his tribe. Later he became a trader, silversmith, blacksmith and philosopher.

He devised the Cherokee alphabet in 1821. It consists of 85 characters. In 1828 a newspaper was published at New Echota, Ga ,

the type used being Cherokee. Soon thereafter the New Testament was printed in Cherokee. Sequoyah's accomplishment was recognized by Congress in 1828, when he came to Washington. He moved to the section which is now Oklahoma in 1823. He died in 1843.—Washington Post. JUN 7, 1917