

Nanyehi-Beloved Woman Of The Cherokee

**Music and Lyrics by Becky Hobbs
Book by Nick Sweet and Becky Hobbs**

**Producer - Vern Stefanic
Director - Lisa R. Stefanic
Music Director - Becky Hobbs
Choreographer - Kara Staiger
Fight Choreographer - Andrew "Donny" Tate
Music Arranger – Duane Sciacqua**

Sponsored by Cherokee Nation Business and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tulsa

Act I

**From Nanyehi's birth in 1738 until the French and Indian War
Overture**

- I. White Wolf on the Horizon - Tenia and Chotans**
- II. Song of the Nunnehi* - Young Nanyehi and the Nunnehi**
- III. Stickball Song - Chotans**
- IV. O Great Spirit - Nanyehi and Kingfisher**
- V. Battle of Taliwa - Chotans and warriors**
- VI. Donadagohvi (Until We Meet Again) - Nanyehi**
- VII. Little Fellow, My Son - Kingfisher**
- VIII. Pass the Whiskey**** - Bryant Ward and Traders**
- IX. By the Fire - Nancy and Bryant Ward**
- X. Love Doesn't Come In Colors - Attakullakulla and Dragging Canoe**
- XI. This Land is Not Our Land** - Dragging Canoe and warriors**

Intermission

Act II

On the verge of the Revolutionary War until Nanyehi's death in 1822

- XII. Nanyehi - Chotans**
- XIII. Long Way Over – Nancy and Bryant Ward**
- XIV. The Same Thing* - Nancy, Lydia Bean and women**
- XV. There Will Be Blood – Dragging Canoe and warriors**
- XVI. Pale Moon - Nancy**
- XVII. War or Peace*** - Nancy and Dragging Canoe**
- XVIII. Let There Be Peace – Nancy and cast**

All songs written or co-written by Becky Hobbs

***with Duane Sciacqua**

****with James Nihan**

*****with Nick Sweet**

******with Nick and Peggy Sweet**

CAST

Nanyehi (called Wild Rose in childhood, Nancy Ward by whites)Michelle Honaker
Attakullakulla (Nanyehi’s uncle, Peace Chief of the Cherokee)Rudy Ramos
Dragging Canoe (Attakullakulla’s son, War Chief of the Chickamauga) Travis Fite
Tenia (Nanyehi’s mother)..... Amber Leilani Williams
Oconastota (War Chief of the Overhill Cherokees)Michael Stopp
Kingfisher (Nanyehi’s first husband) Lance McCarver
Bryant Ward (Nanyehi’s second husband) Mitch Adams
Katie (daughter of Nanyehi and Kingfisher) Jules Jones
Fivekiller (son of Nanyehi and Kingfisher; called Little Fellow in childhood)..... Donny Tate
Betsy (Nancy and Bryant Ward’s daughter) Shelby Simkin
Lydia BeanTabitha Lane Littlefield
Sequina..... Candice Byrd
Young Nanyehi..... Bryanna Swan
Young Dragging CanoeDarrien Scott
Young Sequina Taylor Pearce
Young Katie..... Anya Roadhorse Brezinski
Young Little Fellow..... Liam James Red Eagle
Sali..... Lea Ferguson McCormick
Virginia, Tooka Paula Garner Chaffin
Governor Lyttleton, American soldier David “Dice” Dawson
Isaac Thomas, John Stuart Kurt Harris
Col. Arthur Campbell, Thomas Jefferson, White Settler Sidney Flack
Longfellow, William Peyton, Creek warrior, Chickasaw warrior..... Scott Hutto
Cherokee warriorMike McEver
Cherokee warrior Tim Crow
Nunnehi dancer..... Jacelyn Nicole Rossman

MUSICIANS

Becky Hobbs Piano, keys
Duane Sciacqua Electric, acoustic and synthesized guitars
Jim Paul BlairMandolin, acoustic guitar and percussion
Jim Loftin Bass
Ron Boren.....Drums and percussion
Farren Mayfield Synthesizer, additional keys

CREW and OTHERS

Producer Vern Stefanic
Director Lisa Stefanic
Music Director Becky Hobbs
Choreographer Kara Staiger
Fight Chorographer Donny Tate
Costume Design Tonia Weavel
Stage ManagerStephanie Stone
Assistant Stage Manager Melody Burch
Property Producer..... Michelle Widener
Property Runner/ASM..... Jericho Myers
Set Builder Rich Goss
Set Designer, Lighting Design, Projection Design..... Justin Peer

Special thanks to Chief Bill John Baker, Gary and Barbara White, Wolfe Pack Taekwondo of Tulsa, and David Hampton and the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward

Nanyehi's Wild Turkey Feather Cape designed and constructed by Cherokee National Treasures, Wendell Cochran and Shawna Morton Cain.

Michelle Honaker (Nanyehi) - Thrilled to reprise her role of Nanyehi for the third time and, inspired by her



Cherokee heritage, Michelle Honaker spent two seasons performing at the outdoor drama *Unto These Hills* (Nancy) in Cherokee, North Carolina. She has also worked actively with American Indian Artists Inc. (AMERINDA), an organization dedicated to supporting Native American artists and showcasing Tribal culture. She most recently appeared in an Off-Broadway production of *Miss Lead* (Robyn), which highlighted the environmental, political and personal impact of aboriginal exploitation. Michelle also considers her time at Young Harris College, her Stage Combat Certification by the Society of American Fight Directors, winning Miss Waikiki Teen Hawaii and performances in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Mrs. Meers), *Into The Woods* (Baker's Wife), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Kate) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena) to be highlights of her young career. She sends

her love and gratitude to Beckaroo, Nick, the outstanding production team, her family, friends and the Cherokee People for their support. She also would like to thank the Lord for all of the incredible blessings in her life.

Rudy Ramos (Attakullakulla) – A native of Lawton, Oklahoma, the acting career of Rudy Ramos has covered six decades and started with an appearance on the television show, "Ironside" in 1969. Six months later he was cast as a series regular, playing the part of Wind the volatile half-breed Indian boy in the legendary



television western "High Chaparral." Since then he has done over sixty guest shots on episodic television including recurring roles on the hit TV show, "Hunter" in 1987-88 and "Resurrection Boulevard" in 2002-2003.

Mr. Ramos has done numerous movies for television including the ground breaking *Helter Skelter* (100 million viewers over two nights) playing the part of Danny DeCarlo, *Everybody's Baby: The Rescue of Jessica McClure* and *Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman: The Movie* as the villainous Captain Ruiz.

Feature film credits include *The Enforcer* with Clint Eastwood, Walter Hill's cult classic *The Driver* with Ryan O'Neal and Academy Award nominee French actress Isabelle Adjani, *Defiance* with Jan-Michael Vincent and Art Carney, *Quicksilver* with Kevin Bacon and Laurence Fishburne, *Colors* with Sean Penn and Robert Duvall and the 2001 sleeper *Road Dogz* directed by the up and coming talent Alfredo Ramos to name a few.

The stage has been a big part of Mr. Ramos' life with appearances in the Los Angeles area at the Mark Taper Forum, Taper Too, The Met, Matrix Theater, Los Angeles Theatre Center, and Nosotros Theatre. He also was a member of the Los Angeles Actors Theatre and performed in the award winning hit show *Shorteyes* by Miguel Pinero playing the part of Cupcakes. The ensemble won the 1977 Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Best Ensemble.

In his spare time Mr. Ramos is very passionate about music. He recorded an album for Fantasy Records in the 70's titled "Hard Knocks and Bad Times." He is also very passionate about horses and is an advocate of natural horsemanship. In 2012 he was honored by being added to the "Oklahomans in Film" section at the Oklahoma History Center. In 2013 he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Memphis Film Festival.

Travis Fite (Dragging Canoe) – A Cherokee citizen, Travis Fite studied creative writing at Westminster College



in Fulton, Missouri. He has been a part of the Washington Improv Theater in D. C. and has been a cast member, and a house band member for community theater productions in Tulsa and surrounding areas. Travis has been a part of many music groups and ensembles. He toured with funk-soul band such as Phat Thumb, What It Is (San Francisco), Leon Russell, Full Flava Kings, Waymon Tisdale band, Eldridge Jackson and Toni Estes. Travis can be seen with his current group, the funk-fusion ensemble, What's That (Tulsa), as well as his other projects, Soul Revolution Reggae Band and the alternative country, Jared Tyler Band (Tulsa). Travis currently runs SoulTree recording studio in Tulsa, writing, producing and recording music for local and national artists. He

is reprising his role as Dragging Canoe for the second time. He and his wife, Deb Watson, live in Tulsa.



Candice Byrd (Sequina) – A native of Tahlequah of Cherokee, Quapaw and Osage descent, Candice Byrd is portraying Nanyehi's friend, Sequina, for the second time. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Drama/Television/ Film from Oral Roberts University (2011) and is currently attending the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. She has been involved with numerous plays, musicals, and dance concerts including *Crimes of the Heart* (Lenny), *After Miss Julie* (Christine), *The Red Balloon* (Woman) and played the title role of *Nanyehi* in the Tulsa

workshop in 2011.



Andrew "Donny" Tate (Fivekiller, Creek War Chief, fight choreographer) Originally from central Pennsylvania, Andrew Donovan Tate is a fight choreographer, actor, coach, professional wrestler, scholar, and fighter. He is a Grapplers Quest World JuJitsu Champion and has received gold medals in Judo in Korea, the United States and South Africa. He is a veteran professional wrestler since 2008 where he acquired the ring-names "Landshark" and "The Champion of Virtue". Donny received Counter-Terrorism training from CRI in Las Vegas, specializing in CQB

and Advanced Urban Warfare. Currently undefeated in Mixed Martial Arts (Road FC), Donny is the Head Grappling Coach at UFC Gym Astoria in Queens, NY. He is currently a graduate student majoring in Governance and Development Policy at the European Center for International Research Stratagem (CERIS). His favorite roles include Septimus Hodge (*Arcadia*), Andrew Jackson (*Unto These Hills*), White Patient (*Dumb Things White People Secretly Believe About Other Races*), Willmore (*The Rover*) and Puncher (*Puncher's Chance Trilogy*). He would like to thank Becky Hobbs, Michelle Honaker, the Nanyehi production staff, his incomparable family, his coaches, the Cherokee People and each of you for this opportunity.



Amber Leliani Williams (Tenia) - A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Amber Leilani Williams has a B. A. in Communications from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas. She now teaches middle school in Tulsa. She has previously appeared as "Mayella Ewell" in *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the Broken Arrow Community Playhouse, as "Winnifred" in *Once Upon A Mattress* at the Waxahachie Community Theater, as "Darlene" in *Honky Tonk Angels* at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, and credits as "Esther Smith" in *Meet Me In St. Louis*, "Mrs. Peacock" in *Clue*, and "Dolly Levi" in *The Matchmaker*. She and her fiancé, Brett Awalt, are planning a

December wedding.



Michael Stopp (Oconastota) – A 7th great grandson of Nancy and Bryant Ward, also of Creek descent, Michael Stopp is a graduate student in Finance at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. He previously attended the United States Military Academy in West Point. He portrayed the roll of Attakullakulla in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi*.



Lance McCarver (Kingfisher; warrior) – A chemical engineer, born in Arlington, Texas, Lance McCarver graduated from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville in 2006. This is his first theatrical production. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Broken Arrow.



Mitch Adams (Bryant Ward) – A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a restaurant cook, Mitch Adams graduated from Union High School, Tulsa, in 1994 and the University of Oklahoma in 1998. He has previous credits as “Will” in *Will Rogers Follies*, “John Wilkes Booth” in *Assassins*, “Kaffee” in *A Few Good Men*, “Jesus” in *Godspell* and “Birdie” in *Bye Bye Birdie*. He and his wife Lacey live in Tulsa and have two children.



Paula Garner Chaffin (Virginia; Tooka) – A sixth great granddaughter of Nancy Ward, Paula Chaffin was in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi* and has also appeared in productions of *Equus*, *Cherokee Opera Mountain Windsong* and *The Trail of Tears Drama*. She is a graduate of Northeastern State University with a Masters in Business Administration and attended one year of Law School at the University of Arkansas. Besides her family, her greatest passions are horses and music. She and her husband, Harvey, live in Tahlequah and have two children.



Lea Ferguson McCormick (Sali; prop maker) – A citizen of the Creek Nation, Lea McCormick is a Native Arts teacher and singer. She has attended the University of Tulsa and the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee. She was in the cast of the 2013 *Nanyehi* production. Lea and her husband, Russel, live in Beggs and have one child.



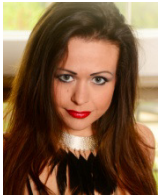
Tabitha Lane Littlefield (Lydia Bean; Nunnehi) - Currently attending the University of Tulsa as a musical theatre major, Tabitha Lane Littlefield previously portrayed title roles in productions of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Alice in Wonderland*. She is a 2011 graduate of the Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences and has attended Oral Roberts University and Tulsa Community College. She is employed at Celebrity Attractions. This year she has started her own theatre company and has already produced “BARE: A Pop Opera.”



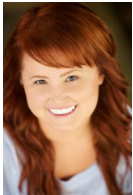
David “Dice” Dawson (Governor Lyttleton; warrior; American soldier) – An actor and consultant from Muskogee, Dice Dawson was in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi* and has also appeared in *American Buffalo*, *The Zoo Story*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has attended Bacone College, Diablo Valley, and is a graduate in Theatre from Northeastern State University.



Sidney Flack (White Settler; Col. Arthur Campbell; Thomas Jefferson) Mr. Flack is thankful to be part of bringing the story of Nanyehi to Tulsa, and for learning of her history through it. He returned to the stage earlier this year after an absence of more than three decades in Theater Tulsa's TATE Award winning production of *Clybourne Park*. He is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He and his wife, Gail, have lived in Tulsa since 2001 where he serves as pastor at Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church in Tulsa North. Some of Mr. Flack's past roles include: "Cmdr. Stone", *A Few Good Men*; "Joseph", *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*; and "John Proctor", *The Crucible*. Mr. Flack pursued a BFA in Acting at Carnegie Mellon University and received a M.Div. from Wartburg Theological Seminary.



Jules Jones (Katie, Nunnehi, Chotan). An active tribal Cherokee citizen, also of Apache descent, Jules Jones was born Julie Anna Pitts in Fort Smith. She is attending Northeastern State University and receiving Master Vocal training from Mezzo Soprano, Barbara McAlister. She has co-written original songs with her brother, Jarrod, including one for the Powerboat Race Team in Miami, Florida called "Gasse Fasse" which is available for download on amazon.com.



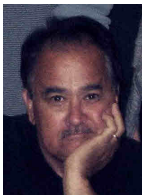
Shelby Simkin (Betsy) – A native of Texas currently living in Houston, Shelby Simkin is an actress and technical writer who graduated from Riverfield Upper School in Tulsa in 2009 and from Lynchburg College, Virginia, in 2013. She is of Cherokee descent and has previously appeared as Sophie in *The Star Spangled Girl* and in the ensemble in productions of *Footloose* and *High School Musical*.



Kurt Harris – (Isaac Thomas, John Stuart) – A Vice President at OCT Equipment in Tulsa, Kurt Harris is a 1989 graduate of Oklahoma State University. He has previously portrayed roles as Russ/Dan in *Clybourne Park*, Robert Lyon in *The Pitmen Painters* and Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He and his wife Dee live in Bixby and have two children.



Scott Hutto (Longfellow, William Peyton, Creek warrior, Chickasaw warrior) – A purchasing expeditor for OPSE Engineering, Scott Hutto is a native of Tulsa and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2007. He has previously appeared as "Tweedle Dum" in *Alice in Wonderland*, "Slender" in *Merry Wives of Windsor* and "Conrade" in *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Mike McEver (warrior) – A Cherokee citizen and former tribal judge, Mike McEver graduated with a JD from the University of Tulsa and works as an attorney. He has had previous roles as "Proprietor" in *Assassins*, "Judas" in *Godspell*, "Billy Bigelow" in *Carousel* and "Curly" in *Oklahoma*. He enjoys playing the guitar. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Broken Arrow and have three daughters.



Tim Crow (warrior) – A native of Muskogee, Tim Crow is of Cherokee and Chickasaw descent. He is a graduate of Muskogee High School (1980), Oklahoma State University (1984) and the University of Tulsa Law School (1990). Currently working as a trial lawyer, he resides in Broken Arrow and is the father of three children. He enjoys painting and playing the guitar; this is his first production.



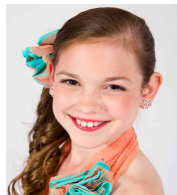
Bryanna Swan (young Nanyehi; white settler) – A citizen of the Cherokee Nation born in Bartlesville, Bryanna Swan is a sixth grade student in Pawhuska Elementary School. She is the daughter of Jamie Swan and Jeffrey Swan and was in Bartlesville’s Children’s Musical Theatre’s production of *The Little Princess* in 2013 and *Peter Pan* in 2014.



Darrien Scott (young Dragging Canoe) – A theatrically talented home-schooler born in New York, now living in Tulsa, Darrien Scott also attends Clark Youth Theater and Theater Arts. He has several previous roles including “Prince Eric” in *The Little Mermaid*, “Pecos Bill” in *Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede*, “John” in *Anything Goes* and “Charlie” in *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.



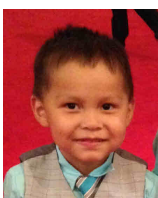
Taylor Pearce (young Sequina; Chotan) – A Cherokee Nation citizen, Taylor Pearce is a sixth grade student in Leach Public Schools, where she is a cheerleader and a member of the Gifted and Talented Program. She is the daughter of Tom and Geri Pearce and a member of the Leach First Baptist Church.



Jaselyn Nicole Rossman – A 5th grade student at Freedom Elementary. Jaselyn is on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and in the Gifted and Talented Program. She has danced at Patti Parrish School of Dance for 7 years and is the daughter of Scott & Lisa Rossman. She loves to dance and attend dance conventions and competitions. She plays basketball and is involved in Leaders in Training at Foundation Church



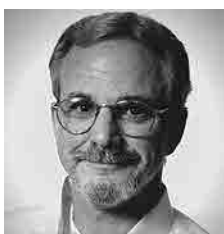
Anya Roanhorse Brezinski (young Katie) – A second grade student at Westside Elementary in Claremore, Anya Roanhorse Brezinski is appearing in her first production. She is an enrolled member of the Osage Nation and participates every summer in The Osage Ceremonial Dance I'n-Lon-Schka.



Liam James Red Eagle (Little Fellow) – Of Osage, Pawnee and Cherokee descent, Liam James Red Eagle is a four year old attending Osage Nation Headstart in Pawhuska. He is the son of Eli and Gina Red Eagle, brother to Eli, Jr. and Fiona and a member of the Native American Indian Church, Red Eagle Chapter.



Becky Hobbs (composer; co-playwright; keyboard) - Born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Becky Hobbs is a 5th great granddaughter of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi) and a Cherokee Nation citizen. Her song, "Angels Among Us" (recorded by Alabama) has been used to raise money for numerous charities throughout the world, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Other songs of hers have been recorded by Conway Twitty, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Emmylou Harris, Helen Reddy, Shirley Bassey, Wanda Jackson, Janie Fricke, the Cherokee National Youth Choir and more. As a recording artist, she's had over 20 Billboard chart singles, including "Jones on the Jukebox," "Honky Tonk Saturday Night," and the Top Ten Duet with Moe Bandy, "Let's Get Over Them Together." The "Beckaroo" has performed in over 40 countries and lives in Nashville, Tennessee with husband, Duane Sciacqua. She has served as Music Director for the first two productions of "Nanyehi-Beloved Woman of the Cherokee" and is thrilled to have the third production here in Tulsa.



Nick Sweet (co-playwright) - Nick Sweet has been a freelance stage director since 1977 and has directed over 130 productions for theatre groups in Oklahoma, Texas Alaska and Georgia. In 2002 he directed the historical outdoor drama, *Trail of Tears*, at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Prior to directing the production Sweet understudied Gene McFall as Will Rogers, narrator of the *Trail of Tears*, under the direction of Tony Award nominee and Oklahoma native, Joe Sears, who authored the script. Sweet has maintained a 24 year relationship with the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur, Oklahoma, where he wrote and directed the school's centennial play, *In Our Own Words*. He has served as a drama instructor for Institution Programs, Inc. and directed shows with inmate theatre groups at four Oklahoma state prisons. From 2003-2008 Sweet served as an adjunct instructor at Oklahoma Wesleyan University where he directed the college's first five musicals. More recently Sweet has co-written a musical titled, *Nanyehi, Beloved Woman of the Cherokee*, with Nashville singer/songwriter, Becky Hobbs and was director of the 2013 production in Tahlequah. He and his wife, Peggy, live in Shepherd, Texas.



Vern Stefanic (Producer) - Vern Stefanic is a journalist, magazine editor (AAPG Explorer), college scriptwriting instructor, theatrical director and nationally recognized playwright. As a theatrical director he has staged over 100 productions for a variety of companies, including the TATE Award-winning productions of *Clybourne Park* and *Boeing Boeing*. Other directing projects have included *A Few Doors Down*, *The Pitmen Painters*, *The Last Five Years*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Real Thing*, *Noises Off*, *Closer*, *Karaoke: The Brand New Unoriginal Musical*, *Nickel and Dimed*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Listen to My Heart: The Songs of David Friedman*, *Company*, *Pippin*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Writing credits include the ongoing "Composer's Alive" series for the Tulsa-based Signature Symphony, *Jasna Cries*, *Sherry's Turn* and two musicals of note written with colleague Doug Smith: *Tom Sawyer - A Musical Adventure* and *Miracle on 34th Street - A Musical Adaptation*, which has enjoyed a national tour, two separate productions at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Westchester, N.Y., and will be playing this December at the La Comedia Dinner Theatre near Cincinnati.



Lisa R. Stefanic (Director) - An acting teacher, theatrical director and longtime Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Performing Arts at Tulsa Community College, Lisa R. Stefanic has directing credits including *Cabaret*, *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*, *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Dearly Departed*, *The Speed of Darkness* and *Sweet and Hot: The Songs of Harold Arlen*. She also is a veteran actress and choreographer for various theatrical groups throughout the region and has been involved in hundreds of productions. Other highlights include performing/directing with the Signature Symphony; participating in the Artists in Schools program for the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa; being a cast member of the popular long-running “Eddie and the Eclectics”; playing Phyllis Weaver in “UHF” plus acting in several independent films; and facilitating or assisting many theatrical workshops. Married to playwright/director Vern Stefanic, Lisa considers her best productions to be her four beautiful and creative children, and she wants to thank all of her family for the love and support given to her over the years – and that includes Stella (yes, that Stella), their spirited, half-lab, half-Golden Retriever.



Kara Staiger (Choreographer) - A native of Kellyville, Oklahoma, Kara Staiger is a dance instructor currently living in Tulsa. She has a Bachelor of Music Theater from Oklahoma City University and a Master of Education from Oral Roberts University. She has recent credits in acting in *The Full Monty* and as choreographer in *Urinetown*.



Stephanie Stone (Stage Manager) - Excited and honored to stage manage for *Nanyehi*, Stephanie Stone received her Bachelors of Arts in Theatre from the University of Tulsa. Stephanie is currently working as a Theatre Assistant at Tulsa Community College’s VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education, as well as a part time faculty at TCC. Her previous work includes Stage Managing *Peter Pan* and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* for the Children’s Musical Theatre, *Getting Out* and *Into the Woods* at the University of Tulsa; *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* at TCC. She has been an ASM for *All in the Timing* at TCC; *Stage Door* and *Most Happy Fella* at Oklahoma City University. Stephanie is also a projection content designer and renderer, she has worked as an Assistant Projection Designer for *RENT*, Media Content and Animation Artist for “*Angels in America: Part 2: Perestroika*.” Her freelance work includes *Distracted*, *Flash: Dance in the Digital Age*, Signature Symphony’s 4th on the 3rd, the Lorton Performing Arts Center Opening Gala, *So TU You Think You Can Dance* and Signature Symphony’s *Gustav Holst: The Planets*.

Justin Peer (Set, Lighting and Production Design) - currently Lighting Director for the VanTrease Performing Arts Center in Tulsa, Justin Peer has been resident lighting designer for Signature Symphony since 2003. During that time he has had the opportunity to design for various artists including Marvin Hamlisch, Diane Schuur, Byron Stripling, Nestor Torres, Sam Harris, *Asleep At The Wheel*, Mark O’Connor, Natalie McMaster, Debby Boone, Eileen Ivers, amongst many others. Designs for Opera Memphis include, *Cosi Fan Tutte* directed by Eric Dillner, *Porgy and Bess* directed by Larry Marshall, and their 50th Anniversary gala with Denyce Graves. Recent theatrical design credits include *Flash: Dance in the Digital Age*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Spring Awakening*, *Distracted*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Reasons To Be Pretty*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *Picnic*. Upcoming projects include: *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* and *Young Frankenstein*.

Duane Sciacqua (Music Arranger; guitars) – Hailing from Madera California where he learned his trade, Duane Sciacqua has been playing professionally since the 8th grade. He moved to Los Angeles in 1979 where he became a noted 'guitar slinger', playing in dozens of bands and with artists including Glenn Frey, Joe Walsh (The Eagles), Paul McCartney (Beatles), Vince Gill, Gary Morris, Rodney Atkins and others. His playing has been featured on numerous television and motion picture soundtracks including *Airwolf*, *Hotshots*, *Cobra*, *Navy Seals*, *Stone Cold* and *Hardball*, just to name a few. He currently resides in Nashville Tn. with his wife Becky Hobbs, where he owns Rough Edges recording studio, writes, produces and works as a session guitarist.



Jim Paul Blair (acoustic guitar, mandolin, percussion) - A musician who is currently the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, Jim Paul Blair was born in Odessa, Texas and graduated with a BBA from Oklahoma State University in 1984. He was a bandmember in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi*. His acting credits include Hank Williams in *Lost Highway* (2009) and Buddy Holly in *The Buddy Holly Story* (2013) for which he was recognized as Actor of the Year by the Muskogee Little Theater. He and his wife, Tracy, live in Muskogee and have five children.



Jim Loftin (bass) – An accountant and musician from Muskogee, Jim Loftin has a BBA from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. He play in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi* and through his relationship with the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame has performed with Vince Gill, the Oak Ridge Boys, Roy Clark, Mason Williams, David Gates and members of The Ventures.



Ronald Boren (drums and percussion) – Curator of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and recording engineer and producer, Ronald Boren played drums in the 2013 production of *Nanyehi* and also in *The Buddy Holly Story*. He is a native of and resides in Muskogee.



Farren Mayfield (synthesizer; additional keys) - A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Farren Mayfield has a Bachelors of Education in music from Northeastern State University and a Masters of Music from the University of Oklahoma. He is currently a pianist and musical educator at NSU. He performed in Tahlequah's River City Players in 2000, 2001, and 2008-14. He resides in Tahlequah and is the father of two children.



BIOGRAPHY OF NANCY WARD

By David Hampton

President, Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward

When she died “a light rose from her body, fluttered around the room like a bird, left through an open door and disappeared toward Chota. This was watched by those in attendance who were startled at this apparition.” This statement, made by her great-grandson, John Walker “Jack” Hildebrand (1818-1910) in 1908, is part of the legend of Nancy Ward, a full-blood Native American who rose to prominence in the tribe during war with the Creeks and whose assistance to settlers in Tennessee made her a popular figure. She was born about 1738 in Chota, the Cherokee “City of Refuge” now in Monroe County, Tennessee. Dr. Emmet Starr believed her name was “Na-na” or “No-na.” Oklahoma historian, Muriel Wright, in her book *Springplace, Moravian Mission, Cherokee Nation*, gives her name as “Nanye’hi.” In any case it is not difficult to anglicize either of these to Nancy. She was a member of the Wolf Clan and came from an important family in Cherokee politics. Her mother’s brother was Attakullakulla (also called “Little Carpenter”), who visited London in 1730 as a young man. According to Jack Hilderbrand, Nancy’s father was a member of the Delaware tribe, historically related to the Cherokee.

About 1751, Nancy married a Cherokee warrior named “Tsu-lah” or Kingfisher. While nothing is known about his family, he was a member of the Deer Clan, according to Emmet Starr, and likely held the potential for a high position in Cherokee politics.

Nancy first became prominent in Cherokee affairs about 1755 during a battle with the Muskogee (Creek) Indians. The Cherokee and the Muskogee had waged a heredity war for possession of what is now northern Georgia for many years. According to James Mooney, the battle of Taliwa was fought at a spot on Mountain Creek or Long-swamp Creek, which enters the Etowah River near present-day Ball Ground, Georgia, in Cherokee County. James Wafford is supposed to have heard the story from the aged trader Bryant Ward about 1815, who is said to have witnessed the battle. Five hundred Cherokee warriors and about twice that number of Muskogee were engaged. The Cherokee, at first, fell back, but rallied and drove the Muskogee from their cover. The defeat was so great that the Creeks left the upper portion of Georgia and the adjacent part of Alabama and never returned.

According to Dr. Starr, Nancy had accompanied Kingfisher to the battle, lying behind a log in order to chew his bullets so that the resulting jagged edges might create more damage. Kingfisher was killed, and Nancy picked up his rifle and continued the fight. For her valor, she was awarded some of the spoils of war, including captured slaves. Dr. Starr states that she thus became the first slaveholder among the Cherokee, but this seems doubtful. In addition, Nancy was awarded the title of “War Woman.” Sometime later, just when is not known, she was given a title which Dr. Starr calls “Ghi-ga-u” and has been translated as “Beloved Woman,” sometimes as “Most Honored Woman.” Holders of this title had a right to speak and vote at Cherokee Councils and had supreme pardoning power; both rights Nancy used through the remainder of her life.

A few years after Kingfisher’s death, Nancy married again to the trader, Bryant Ward, of Irish descent. Nancy and Bryant separated, and he moved to South Carolina where he and his white family were sometimes visited by Nancy. He died in Georgia in 1815. Nancy and Bryant were the parents of one daughter, Betsy, who was the Cherokee wife of General Joseph Martin of Virginia while he lived with the tribe.

During the 1760’s many white settlers from the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia began to move into the East Tennessee region along the Watauga River basin and in 1772 a group of these settlers met with Nancy’s uncle,

Chief Attakullakulla, in order to work out details of a lease and friendship pact. The agreement was a ten-year permit for which the Cherokee received the equivalent of a thousand dollars of trading goods and the promise not to encroach further on the Cherokee Overmountain country. There were several instances of skirmishes between the Cherokee and the white settlers over the next few years including one time in 1774 when a cousin of Chief Ostenaco was murdered. The whites, afraid of retaliation, asked James Robertson to serve as peacemaker, and he made a journey to Chota in order to apologize to the Cherokee and promise punishment for the murderer. It is thought that Robertson may have visited Nancy Ward during this trip. He later described Nancy as “queenly and commanding” and noted that her home was furnished in “barbaric splendor as befitted her rank in the nation.”

During the next two years many white settlers moved into the Cherokee domain and some of the younger Cherokee leaders, including Attakullakulla’s son, Dragging Canoe, began to discuss options of removing them by force. War parties were convened in July, 1776. Nancy sent four white traders, led by Isaac Thomas, to warn the Overmountain settlements. Why Nancy would warn white settlers against her own people is conjecture, but she is supposed to have later said “the white men are our brothers. The same house shelters us and the same sky covers us all.” The white settlers who were warned were living on land ceded by the lease agreement, though this may not have been recognized by Dragging Canoe and his followers.

In July, 1776, Cherokee warriors were divided into three groups led by Dragging Canoe, The Raven of Chota, and Old Abram; they attacked white settlements. The group led by Old Abram captured two whites, Samuel Moore and Mrs. William (Lydia Russell) Bean. Moore was later burned at the stake, and Mrs. Bean was taken to a town called Toque, near Chota, where she was to have suffered the same fate. However, Nancy appeared after she had been bound and demanded that Mrs. Bean be freed. She told the warriors, “it revolts my soul that Cherokee warriors would stoop so low as to torture a squaw. No woman shall be tortured or burned at the stake while I am ‘Ghi-ga-u’.” Mrs. Bean was taken to Nancy’s home in Chota where she taught Nancy and members of her family how to make butter and cheese. Later Nancy sent Lydia Bean back to her family accompanied by Nancy’s brother, Longfellow, and her son, Fivekiller.

The Cherokee raid on the white settlements was unsuccessful, and there followed several years of disagreements among different factions of the tribe on how to deal with the whites. In 1785 at Hopewell, South Carolina, the new U. S. government and the Cherokee agreed to a treaty the last clause of which stated: “Any settler who fails to remove within six months from the land guaranteed to the Indians shall forfeit the protection of the United States, and the Cherokee may punish him or not as they please.” At the signing, Nancy Ward spoke:

“I am glad there is now peace, I take you by the hand in real friendship. I have a pipe and a little tobacco to give the commissioners to smoke in friendship. I look on you and the red people as my children. Your having determined on peace is most pleasant to me for I have seen much trouble during the late war. I am old, but I hope yet to bear children who will grow up and people our Nation, as we are now under the protection of Congress and shall have no more disturbance. The talk I have given you is from the young warriors I have raised in my town, as well as myself. They rejoice that we have peace, and hope the chain of friendship will never more be broken.” Nancy delivered two strings of wampum, a pipe and some tobacco to the white commissioners.

During the 1790s a glimpse of Nancy Ward comes from William Martin, white son of General Joseph Martin whose Cherokee wife was Nancy’s daughter, Betsy:

“When I lived in South Carolina (1791-1798) Bryant Ward, then old, sensible and intelligent, lived as my neighbor—was settled and had a family. He had, in early life, been a trader among the Cherokee. He took a wife there, the notorious Nancy Ward...she was, as I think, one of the most superior women I ever saw. Bryant Ward and his family recognized her, for I have frequently seen her there, we then living not far from the Cherokee settlements.”

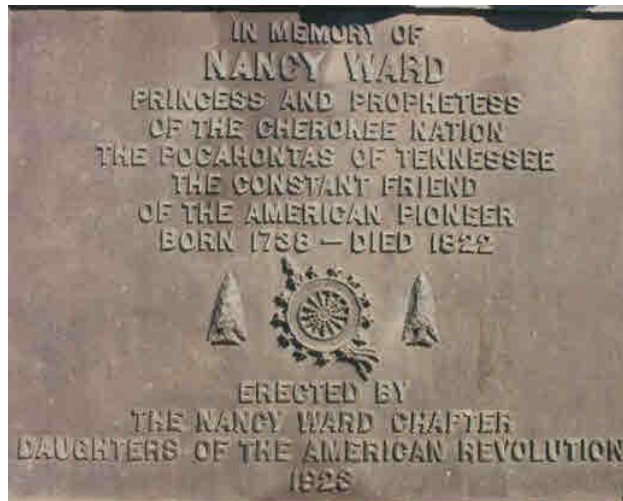
There is a reference to Nancy in the Diary of the Missionaries to Springplace with the date 5 July 1807:

“Gambold went to see the ailing Mrs. Vann. While there three old Indian women came to see her. They were from Ostenali and were very friendly and talkative. One of them, who had been a widow for 50 years, was 100 years of age. They said that they loved the whites and when Col. Meigs came to Ostenali he stayed with the aged widow. Mrs. Vann told them why we were here as she grasped and clenched Sr. Gambold’s hand and held it tightly. She told them that she loved us very much. The aged woman, named Chicouehla, claimed that she had in her youth gone to war against hostile Indians and suffered several severe wounds. Vann’s wives verified this and said that she was highly respected and loved by browns and whites alike. Her left arm was covered with figures, which she said was the custom in her youth.”

In 1817 Nancy and several other Cherokee women including her daughter, Katy Harlan, presented a memorial to the Cherokee delegates requesting that this be the final cession of Cherokee lands to the U. S. As a result of that treaty, Nancy requested a life reservation of 640 acres of land in part of the ceded territory, but according to testimony given later by her heirs, she became afraid to live there and returned to the Cherokee Nation.

In 1819 the Cherokee Nation enacted a Constitution, and Nancy, who had a voice and vote at Cherokee councils, sent her walkingstick and her vote in favor of ratification, she being too old and feeble to attend in person. She thereby relinquished any power she had as “Ghi-ga-u” since there was no constitutional authority for that office.

In her last years Nancy operated an inn at the Womankiller Ford of the Ocoee River in present-day Polk County, Tennessee, near Benton. It was there that she died, in spring of 1824 according to Emmet Starr, but other sources list the year as 1822. She was buried on a small hill nearby, and rests beside her brother, Longfellow, and her son, Fivekiller. It is likely that the location was preserved by Jack Hilderbrand, who continued to live in the area after the Cherokee removal. Her grave was marked by the Nancy Ward Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1924 and is preserved today by the State of Tennessee. In 1994 her descendants organized to form The Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward.



**NANCY WARD'S GRAVE, BENTON, TENNESSEE
(with son, Fivekiller, and brother, Longfellow)**