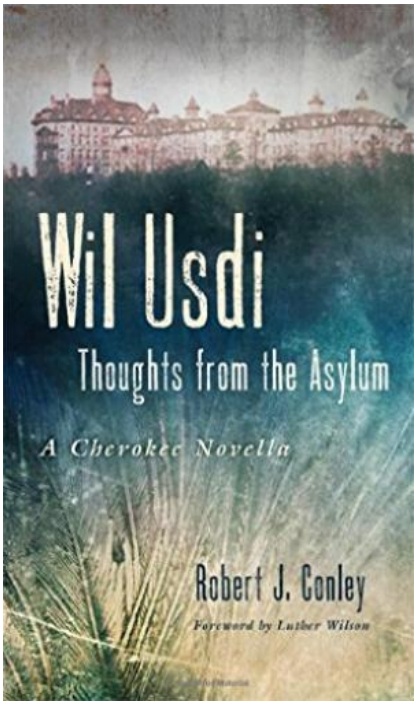


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Wil Usdi: Thoughts from the Asylum, a Cherokee Novella (Paperback)

By Robert J Conley

University of Oklahoma Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Adopted into the Cherokee tribe as a teenager, William Holland Thomas (1805 1893), known to the Cherokees as Wil Usdi (Little Will), went on to have a distinguished career as lawyer, politician, and soldier. He spent the last decades of his life in a mental hospital, where the pioneering ethnographer James Mooney interviewed him extensively about Cherokee lifeways. The true story of Wil Usdi s life forms the basis for this historical novella, the final published work of fiction by the late award-winning Cherokee author Robert J. Conley. Conley tells Wil s story through the recollection of the old man s memories. Wil learns the Cherokee language while working at a trading post. The chief Yonaguska adopts the fatherless Wil, seeing to it that the boy dresses like a Cherokee and, for all practical purposes, becomes one. Later, representing the Eastern Band of the Cherokees in their negotiations with the federal government, Wil helps them remain in their ancestral lands in North Carolina when most other Cherokees are sent off on the Trail of Tears to the Indian Territory....

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