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WEB LITTLE JIM, SHAWNEE

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COMMENTS ON HIS OWN BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF THE SHAWNEES

This Thomas Wildcat Alford, author of the book, Civilization, belonged to the White Turkey Band. The White Turkey Band lives over around Shawnee, I guess they're included with the Absentee Shawnees as far as the present tribal government is concerned, but actually they're different from us over here at Little Axe.

Chief Tecumseh--you've heard about him--he belonged to the Absentee Shawnees.

I'm a descendent of his. I can trace my line back to him.

My dad had a tribal council to work with. He was Chief Little Jim. During the thirties they got this Tribal Business Committee. I think it was about 1936. But before that they used to have a tribal council and a chief. About 1936 the White Turkey Shawnees decided to separate from the Absentees--call themselves White Turkeys. My dad used to help them out with their ceremonies back in the early thirties. I was about ten years old in 1930. I was born in 1920. I used to take part in those tribal deals up there till about-- somewhere in the thirties. They had two or three killings among the tribe-- between us and the White Turkeys somewhere about 1935 and 1937. The old leader of the White Turkey died about 1938. He was one of those--it was Old Man--I can't remember his first name but he was one of the Little Axe's. He was the one that carried on their ceremonial deals. I remember him as an old man. He had a son named Billy. During that time we used to call him Old Man Little Axe.

There were people here in this community that settled here as Indians. I'm going to tell you something about how they got their names. Joe Billy was the father of Billy Williams, who was the father of another Williams. When Joe Billy died, they told his son to accept his father's name. He didn't