

M-16

WEBB LITTLEJIM, SHAWNEE

INTERVIEW: 3-17-69

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

NO TAPE

(I was interviewing Webb Littlejim one of the present chiefs, concerning the history of his people, since I have been teaching a class in Shawnee Indian history through the Community Action Program Little Axe Center.--jj)

We came from Ohio. That's what Dad (Little Jim) always told me. DQ We have these divisions among all of the Shawnees. It's like the Democrats and the Republicans. You could be born that way. We have this in our tribe today. I guess it depends on what you want to be. I belong to the picowitha myself. It's because my Dad was one, and I guess my grandfather. The picowitha handles the tribal ceremonies. I'm not familiar with what the hathawikla does. The kishpogotha are supposed to be fighting men. But they all fought, anyway. When they were in trouble they all fought.

The Shawnees in Texas were with the Cherokees and Delawares. The whole bunch was in there together. They was helping Sam Houston fight the Mexicans. That's how they got the treaty. That treaty might have been good if they hadn't pulled out. There were several trips made to Austin here in recent years to the State Capitol to find out about the Treaty. Several people from here went in recent times, but they can't find any record of that treaty they say. I read one letter that had belonged to my grandfather, Big Jim. Big Jim hired some attorneys to find out about that treaty but they said they couldn't find anything.

DQ Maybe he wanted to move back to Texas but I don't know. The attorneys were brothers. The letter was dated before 1900. It would have to be, because Big Jim died then. He died in Old Mexico. He was hunting a place then to move this band of Shawnees--after he'd come from across the North Canadian. He wanted to get land from Old Mexico--just for his band, not for the White Turkeys.