

LEWIS, ELZORA

INTERVIEW #6452

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ELZORA L. (FULSON) LEWIS
Route 1, Box 58
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Interview - June 29, 1937
Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History.

I (Elzora Lewis) was born July 29, 1871 at Muskogee, Indian Territory.

My father, Louis Fulson, was a Choctaw Freedman. Little was known of his parents. His father's name was Yak Fulson and mother was Maria Fulson.

My mother was Elizabeth Scott Fulson, the daughter of Rolla Scott, a Creek Indian who settled in the Creek Nation when the Five Civilized Tribes moved to the Indian Territory. Four years of his early manhood were spent in one of the northern states, where he learned to speak the English language fluently and became an interpreter on his return to the Indian Territory, at a point then known as South Canadian.

Susie (Bruner) Scott, wife of Rolla Scott, maternal grandmother of Elzora Fulson Lewis, re-

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fused to come to the Indian Territory with her husband, Rolla Scott, as she was a free Negro of mixed Indian blood and feared being made a slave if once she left her immediate family circle.

Later she came to the Indian Territory with her parents, Joe and Delia Bruner. Delia Bruner died during their long journey to the Indian Territory. In later years, after coming to the Indian Territory, Susie Bruner became the trusted treasurer of J. S. Murrow of the Bacone College at Muskogee.

Joe Bruner was a Creek interpreter in the service of the U.S. government.

I received my academic training in a Baptist Missionary school located on Agency Hill where the Veterans hospital now stands on Honor Heights. The old stone building now used as an Indian museum, built to house the Indian agency of the Five Civilized Tribes and later abandoned, was used as a dormitory and administration building by the Creek Mission school when it was established.

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This school was established by Rev. Robert A. Lesley, a Creek Indian, for the training of Negro Freedmen children.

Anna Lesley, the wife of Rev. Lesley, was a Negro and educated in the East. Her services were invaluable in the training of the students at the Evangel Mission, as the school was known.

Associated with this school also was J. S. Murrow of the Basone College.

This Mission later became one of the free tribal schools for Creek Freedmen.

May 24, 1889, I was married to Phillip A. Lewis, Creek Freedman. To this union were born three children. A son, who died in infancy, and two daughters, Edna Lewis Fuller and Melvina Lewis Ward. Our grandchildren are Posetta Ward and Edneil, Fairfax, Neely and Joe Fuller.