

*Cherokee Claims Bill -  
for Court of Claims*

*Basis of your action before the  
Court -*

**DEATH OF CHEROKEE LEADER  
RECALLS BIRTH OF SOCIETY**

**Slaying of Lincoln England's Father Immediate Cause of Formation of the Keetoowah Clan Among Tribe Members; Captain Budd Gritts Its Organizer**

Special to The World.

TAHLEQUAH, Jan. 19.—Lincoln England, one of the notable Cherokee citizens of northeastern Oklahoma, died at his home in Adair county recently. England, who was in his seventy-ninth year, was a veteran of the Civil war, having been a member of the famous Third Cherokee regiment, which, as part of the Indian brigade, commanded by Col. William A. Phillips of Kansas, saw strenuous service from 1862 until the close of the conflict.

In the days of the Cherokee government England held several official positions. At one time he was sheriff of his district and later a member of the Cherokee national legislature, but for the past 20 years had been a minister of the gospel. Soon after joining the Missionary

Baptist church in 1836 he was ordained a minister of that denomination and for many years had been recognized as one of the most able of the Indian ministers of this section of Oklahoma. Funeral services were conducted in the presence of some 250 Cherokee citizens, together with a number of the white citizens of the community. Burial was made in a rural graveyard near the old England home.

Among the many interesting reminiscences of the past sometimes related by the veteran was the story of the origin of the Keetoowah society and of its founder, the noted Capt. Budd Gritts. Known to his fellow countrymen as Gah-le-stoo-hub-sky (Buds bursting into bloom), Gritts was one of the outstanding

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Cherokees of his day. He was a minister and a statesman. In 1831 when the father of Lincoln England had been slain by a member of the nation, Gritts, in view of the fact that so many killings had occurred during a comparatively brief period, decided to perfect an organization which would, he hoped and believed, have the result of better feeling among the Cherokees for each other. Consequently the Keetoowah society was organized in the year mentioned. It was named in honor of the Gituwa, or ancient patriarch of the Cherokees, and brotherly love and fraternalism were taught. Gritts was assiduous in promulgating the precepts of the society and within a few years its membership was large. Its good results, too, were apparent and quarrels and strife materially lessened. When the Civil war suddenly broke forth the Keetoowah society was changed to some extent and became a society of the utmost secrecy, with signs, grips and passwords. Practically all the members of the organization joined the Union army.

Gritts, the founder of the society, after the close of the war, became one of the most trusted leaders of his people and was selected to serve as president of the Cherokee senate. While occupying this position in 1867 he died of pneumonia in Tahlequah and was accorded a public funeral. A large delegation from both houses of the national legislature of the Cherokee nation was appointed to accompany and escort the body to its final resting place among the spruce beauties of the Cherokee hills miles away to the east. Lincoln England, one of the youngest veterans of the Civil war, was among those who made the slow journey through the hills and valleys to the burial place. Very probably he was the last survivor of the many who 17 years ago followed the beloved Gah-le-stoo-hub-sky to his grave.

Lincoln England was one of the most able of the members of his race, eloquent and persuasive and his influence was such that large numbers of his people were induced to enter upon the right way of living.

*Lincoln was not the leader  
as alleged - nor was Gritts.  
But they were staunch adherents  
to the Keetoowah -*

*The society was of old nation  
origin - in 1837-8 it had  
materially prospered - until in  
Sept 1858 when Capt. White -  
Catcher, Cap. James Vann,  
Capt. James W. Dennis and  
Capt. Thomas Kay received the order at  
a meet at McKays Saline in 1858.  
The writer was there & then & Gritts was  
not there - Most, a shrewd lawyer &  
order, maintain the US gov. & Republicanism*

*Claims - against - U. S.*

*Scott Fowler - Howell - Ark.  
See in file. His letter of Nov  
29 - 1924*

*Nov 30, 24 - wrote two  
letters, one in afternoon & one  
at 9 p.m. - explained fully,  
as I understood him, as to  
what I charged for specific  
work in his case -*

*\$10.00 to secure cert of record  
of his granddads claim &  
from the Indian office -  
\$33.00 to give him the Act  
providing for Indian's set-  
tlement of Cherokee claims  
and direct as to how to make  
claim for filing -*

*Lastly, \$5.00 expenses in each  
claim or head of family of  
minors -  
for single adults same  
\$5.00 enclosed stamped  
envelope for reply - properly  
directed or addressed - &  
replied to the Holbrook case  
so he may understand me  
more clearly -  
I suspect that Fowler is  
feeling of me, that I'm wrong.  
But I cannot give my time  
free of charge to any one -  
see page 111.*