

After changing laws so that Natives would have self determination (tribal confederation) to encourage them to assimilate (to the cities), former President Richard Nixon returned to a self-determination policy which became law by the Self-Determination Act of 1975.

The pattern of destroying family networks and cultural history weighs heavy within my own family. My great-grandmother, Rose Blackwell, married James Blackwell, twenty years her senior. Two children came from their marriage, King David (my grandfather), and King Solomon. During the Oklahoma Land Rush, James sent Rose out ahead of the claim stakers to claim a large piece of land. During that stake-out, she killed two men who tried to take her claim. Then buried them under the claim stakes. The town they founded, Blackwell, Oklahoma, came from that effort. When James died, Rose lost the family fortune to an English gambling man twelve years her junior.

My grandparents, King David Blackwell, and Eliza French (Liza), both were educated in boarding schools like so many other native children. Rose would pick up King David in her handsome carriage, when school was out to take him home to the city. My great-grandfather was a sheriff (hired by the Texas Rangers) on the reservation. Liza would live there when she wasn't in school. During the games on the reservation, grandfather, who was very athletic, would show off to her. I remember Grandmother saying how impressed she