

July 31st, 1933

Mr. Grant Foreman,  
1005 Pondulac Street  
MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 28th, to hand and noted. In reply have to advise I did not, of course the newspaper article you speak of, but did see one relative to his grandmother bringing and caring for the children of Chief McIntosh after that chief of the Creeks was killed for making the treaty with the government that brought them west. I was comparatively correct. Coody was a Creek Freedman, not a Seminole. His Father, Robert Johnson was the official interpreter of the Creek Nation in the treaty of 1866. Coody was a member of the House of Warriors of the Creek Nation and himself was one of the most excellent interpreters of the Creek and English language who ever lived. Gov. John F. Brown of the Seminoles once told me Coody was entirely the best. Coody was interpreter for many years in Judge Parker's famous court at Ft. Smith, and it was there he acquired his knowledge of the law and procedure in court. He was a most interesting character and I join with you in the thought that the history of the state lost much in the death of Coody Johnson. I charge myself with much delinquency there, for while I received a vast store of information from him, I should have preserved it in written form and the added accuracy. He was highly educated in the east and as he once told me "bell-hopped" for several summers in the Atlantic City hotels, was recognized throughout the United States by his race, and the only time I ever saw or met Booker Washington was in Coody's office when that celebrated negro educator was visiting Coody some thirty years ago. Coody was Secretary to Hulputta Micco, Chief of the Seminoles, during his term of office, and was in fact the principal chief during that time. His services were great, not only to the Seminole people but to the incoming white settlers.

William Read ( I dont seem to believe that is the right name, but it may be ) is an old preacher among the Seminole, a Creek. He use to live at Wetumka and later I believe at Mufaula. He was not at the meeting refered to. I know him but am not sure the name is correct. He preached at the funeral of John F. Brown. Coody told me a story about him once; he was holding a religious meeting and was very proud of the fact he could speak both Creek and English. He was praying and as Coody told it, it ran something like this in part: "Oh! most Omnipotent God, Oh! most magnificent God, Oh! most insignificant God!", which was'ent just what he had in mind, perhaps. Freeling Alex, at Newoka can give you the desired information.

The history of the Seminoles is indeed interesting. Particularly, those parts obtained from the old Indians, themselves. I have preserved much of that but feel I was very negligent in not gathering up more of it from those old fellows who came out from Florida. All but two are gone now, Jacob Harrison, near Newoka and Rina Coker, southwest of Seminole.

Respectfully.,

O. Jay Cutlip

PS I am now engaged in writing a history of Judge Parker's Court, the trials crimes, characters and marshals. Perhaps you can assist me there. Oatlin

CHARLES F. COLCORD, PRESIDENT  
THOS. H. DOYLE, VICE-PRESIDENT  
W. A. LEDBETTER, VICE-PRESIDENT

DAN W. PEERY, SECRETARY

MRS. JESSIE R. MOORE, TREASURER  
JASPER SIPES, PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
GRANT FOREMAN, DIRECTOR OF  
HISTORICAL RESEARCH

# Oklahoma Historical Society

[TRUSTEE OF THE STATE]

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

1419 West Okmulgee Avenue,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma,  
July 28, 1933.

Judge C. Guy Cutlip,  
Wewoka, Oklahoma.

Dear Judge Cutlip:

This morning the Muskogee Phoenix carried a story about celebrating the birth of J. Coodey Johnson. The story is pretty badly garbled so there is not much real information in it but it refers to the fact that his grandmother was a slave of William McIntosh.

Quite a number of years ago I talked to him rather briefly and my recollection is that he told me that his father or grandfather was a celebrated interpreter who was active in the Seminole migration and perhaps in the Seminole wars. That was before I had become much interested in the study of the Seminole Indians and their migration and it has always been a source of great regret to me that I did not seek further opportunity to talk to him because I am convinced that he had a great fund of information. He was a smart colored man and might have given information that would have been of great value to the historical society and all who are interested in our early history.

I am wondering if you happen to know the name of this ancestor that I refer to who was the Seminole interpreter and if not, do you know of any one at Wewoka who could give me the information?

The story in the paper this morning says that an address was going to be made on this occasion by a colored Creek freedman named Rev. William Reed who was over a hundred years old. Do you happen to know where this man lives?

Very sincerely yours,

GF-rw

*Grant Foreman*

1005 Fondulac Street,

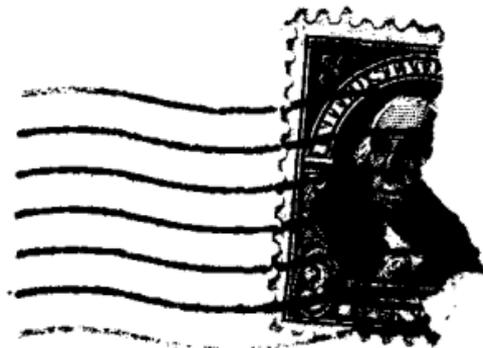
AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

~~OKLAHOMA~~ ~~MUSKOGEE~~ ~~CITY~~ ~~OKLAHOMA~~

~~MUSKOGEE~~ ~~CITY~~ ~~OKLAHOMA~~

~~MUSKOGEE~~ ~~CITY~~ ~~OKLAHOMA~~

Musko gee,



Judge C. Guy Cutlip,  
Wewoka, Okla.

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# Oklahoma Historical Society

[TRUSTEE OF THE STATE]

~~OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA~~

1419 West Okmulgee Ave.,  
Mustogee Oklahoma.  
May 6 1935

Dear Judge Outtip:

I received your letter saying you are going to send me the Lilly diary. If there is no objection I will have it copied for the Oklahoma Historical Society and I will have a carbon made for you if you wish.

I am glad you are interested in old Fort Holmes at the Lilly place. On the other side of Little River was what was known as Edwards' Trading Post. They were joined at one time by an iron bridge that was destroyed in the Civil War. That is one of the most historic places in Oklahoma. I have written a great deal about it in my books. The fort was built in 1834 but the treaty with the Wild Indians was made in 1835 at the second Fort Holmes or Chouteaus on the east side of the Canadian River about five miles north east of Purcell.

I wish the people of Holbrook in particular and all other Oklahomans would as well would do something to note the historical importance of the section at the mouth of Little River.

With kindest regards I am sincerely,  
Grant Foreman

1419 West Okmulgee Avenue,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.  
April 29, 1935.

Judge C. Guy Cutlip,  
Seminole, Oklahoma.

Dear Judge:

I think I wrote you that I have written a book describing the Gold Rush through the Indian Territory in 1849. The rush of California emigrants across this state from Fort Smith was really an amazing phenomenon of which few people have any conception. One of the principal routes crossed your county and the Seminole agent wrote to the Indian Office at Washington of the thousands of emigrants who were passing his agency.

Mr. Brown of Wewoka told me of the diary kept by his grandmother in which she also told of the passing of these people. He promised to let me have the diary so that I could examine it. I explained to him that I am trying to collect and write the history of this country for the benefit of all who are interested, without hope of financial reward or even of securing a return of the expense involved. He seemed to appreciate what I am trying to do and said he would send the diary to me; I promised of course to take good care of it and return it safely to him.

I have lately been to California examining numerous libraries and archives there and on the way there and back; in that way with the assistance of my wife I have added a good deal of valuable material to what I have. The University of Oklahoma Press plans to publish the book for a spring issue. If you would use your good offices to induce Brown to send me his diary I would be very grateful to you; and you would be aiding a worthy cause I am ~~sure~~ sure. I think you will be interested in what I have developed. I will take good care of the diary and return it promptly.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Grant Foreman*

P. S. I hope you will drop in and see me some time when you are over this way.

# Oklahoma Historical Society

[TRUSTEE OF THE STATE]

HISTORICAL BUILDING

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

1419 W. Okmulgee

Muskogee, Okla.

May 18, 1935.

*C. M. Cutlip*  
*Newsok, Okla*  
Dear Judge:

I am sending herewith by express the Lilley Autobiography, together with a carbon copy of it. The original I have had copied for the Oklahoma Historical Society.

I am very grateful to you for the opportunity of copying this interesting Journal. Brown told me of some relative of his who, he thought, might have some more material but I have forgotten the name of the person. I would like to interview whoever it was if I can learn the name.

If you have read my Hitchcock Journal you will be interested in knowing that I have another extended journal kept by Hitchcock when he was in Florida which concerns the Seminole Indians. I have hoped I might find some Seminole who would be willing to finance the printing of this by the Oklahoma University Press. I should like to show it to you some time when you are up this way.

With kindest regards I am,

Very sincerely yours,

F-B

*Grant Foreman*

[The Lilley autobiography is in the manuscript file.]