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MIGRATION and CONVENTIONS

An interview of George Harvison,
Okemah, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian*Pioneer History
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During the migration of the Indians to the western country, my father, Thomas C. Harvison, also was a native of Alabama who came with his father and mother and two other children whose names I do not know. There was a step-son named Benjamin Knox. My father was a slave owner and he had several of his slaves with him when he was on the journey to the new country.

He said they came up by way of river in a ship. It was after they had landed on this side of the Mississippi River that a cholera epidemic broke out durin, which a great many of the Indians and slaves died. My father has said that his father and mother, Benjamin Knox and two other children died of this disease. He told that since his father

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was greatly loved by his slave that they took my father, Thomas C. Harvison, and raised him to manhood.

Later, my father, Thomas, was married to Sule McIntosh, a daughter of Col. D. N. McIntosh. D. N. was the son of William McIntosh, a great leader of the lower faction of the Creeks during the days in Alabama prior to the removal. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the McIntosh men served in with the South.

There was a call issued to hold the Sequoyah Convention for the purpose of establishing a separate state out of the Indian Territory. This separate state was to be known as the state of Sequoyah. I was a member of that convention and there were divisions called districts in the Indian Territory similar to the present counties of the state which were known as:

Curtis
Bonaparte
Gilbert
Jefferson
Harrison
Washington
McLish

Garvin
Johnston
Overton
Byrd
Arbeka
Tom Needles
Blue

Bixby
Coweta
Cheadle
Seminole
Michee
Cusseta
Okmulgee

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Eufaula
Breckenridge
pushmataha
Tobuxsy
Hailey
Quapaw
Tamechechee

Hitchkok
McCurtain
Sans Bois
Tulledega
Weatherford
Lansah
Coowescoowee

Bequoyah
Tahlequah
Flint
Skia took
Delaware

At the time during this movement we lived in the Arbeka District and I was one of the nominees to represent the district at a constitutional convention but I was defeated by a man named Sullins who lived at Okfuskee, which was a small trading place. It was through his efforts in his work during the constitutional convention that the Arbeka district was changed to Okfuskee district. (This district now embraces the Okfuskee county area.)

During the voting for the nominees for the Constitutional Convention the place where the voting in my favor was held ^{was} at the negro cabin near Weleetka. The negroes who lived here were the descendants of the slaves that had raised Thomas G. Harvison and were only too glad for their poor home to be a voting place.