

INDEX CARDS

Miamis  
Removal--Miami  
Missions--Miami  
Schools--Miami  
Modocs  
Richardville, Thomas Francis  
Clothes--Modoc  
Marriage--Modoc  
Palmer, Harley Thomas  
Wealthy Indians--Miami  
Houses--Miami  
Border Towns--Baxter Springs, Kansas  
Baxter Springs, Kansas  
Postoffices--Tintown  
Outlaws--Quapaw Agency  
Miami  
Mining--Quapaw Agency

PALMER, ELIZABETH LINDSEY INTERVIEW.  
Two interviews with Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsey Palmer (Miami  
woman) at 115 A NW, Miami, Okla.  
Nannie Lee Burns, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149  
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78

A MIAMI INDIAN WOMAN'S STORY.

My grandmother was----- Pesawah (Fullblood Miami)

My mother was Mary Pesawah " "

My father was Marcus Lindsey " Peoria)

My grandmother and mother came from Peru, Ind., with a party  
of Miamis when they moved from that country to Kansas near  
the year of 1846. This party traveled by boat down the  
canal to the Ohio, through the Mississippi and up the  
Missouri to Kansas City where the boats were left and trav-  
eled over land to Marysville, Kansas.

As this party made their way slowly down the river on large  
flat-boats, those from the banks could see some of them  
sleeping, some smoking, others gathered together solemnly  
talking with children gathered near and some of the women  
cooking and doing the various tasks.

Mary Pesawah was eleven or twelve years of age at this time  
and could not understand why she and her mother should  
leave their home and relatives (some by the name of Aveline  
still living there) and take this strange journey.

(Mary had brown hair and a fair skin and later in life often  
wondered if she was not by birth a white person.

Mary Pesawah married Marcus Lindsey, a fullblood interpreter  
at Paola, Kansas to which union were born two girls and three  
boys of which Mrs. Palmer was the only one to survive infancy.

She, Elizabeth Lindsey was born May 5, 1860 at Miami Mission Kansas. Her father died in 1866.

Her mother, Mary Pesawah Lindsey, married Chief Thomas Francis Richardville of the Miamis. They were married by Rev. Smith, a Baptist minister at Miami Mission, in August 1867.

Mrs. Palmer attended school at Miami Village and later at Fontana, Ks., and was taken to the Stephens Female College at Lexington, Mo., when ten years old, where she remained two years. Chief Richardville took Mrs. Palmer with some other students and she says that dreading for him to leave, she hid his hat to keep him from leaving and one of the ladies took her away till after he was gone. One of her most pleasant memories is of Mother Dulin, the wife of the Supt. Later she returned to Fontana to school.

Even at this time Chief Richardville was coming to Baxter Springs and driving out and preaching once a month at the Peoria school house and later at the Drake school house.

On one of his trips, his wife and Mrs. Palmer accompanied him and on the street in Baxter, Chief pointed out some Modocs, both men and women on the street, the women dressed and most of them having bright colored shawls, the men in shirts and trousers but fastened at the neck and back of their coats and again at the waists was a black strip of cloth some twelve or fifteen inches wide which reached

p. 3

the ground and trailed on the ground behind them. Her step-father said, "Daughter be careful not to step on their trains for if you do you will have to marry him." She states that she returned to the place where they were stopping and stayed indoors till time to leave.

#### MARRIAGE AND REMOVAL TO OKLAHOMA.

Lizzie Lindsey (Elizabeth) married James Lawson <sup>Palmer</sup> Palmer, a white man of near Fontana who was born near Ilmothville, Mo., on a farm and who was the son Willson Palmer born October 6, 1836 and his mother, Martha Palmer, born October 16, 1836. They were married November 4, 1880 at Paola, Kansas by the Rev. Lowther, a Baptist minister and to this union one son, Harley Thomas Palmer, the present Chief of the Miamis, was born July 22, 1881 at Fontana, Kansas.

Chief Richardville had previous to this arranged and bought for the Miamis sufficient land from the Peorias for each of the tribe living in Kansas to have 200 acres each. The land laying west and south of the Quapaws and west of the Peorias.

Mrs. Palmer tells me that all of the Miamis did not come at one time but came a family or several families at a time over a period of several years and that all of them never came which resulted in a surplus of land. The land that they owned in Kansas they sold as it was theirs indiv-

idually and they sold as opportunity presented itself.

Chief Richardville owned a large two-story, eight-room house and several hundred acres of land. Their houses were well furnished and they had plenty and good stock around. Mr. Palmer's brother's wife now lives on this place which is one mile south of Fontana, Ka.

Chief Richardville and family came in 1882 and settled three miles west of Commerce, Oklahoma and improved the place that is now the Robinson-Mainess Dairy and here true to form he built a large two-story house and large barns. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer came in the early spring of 1884. She and her son, Harley, came by train to Baxter Springs and bringing what Mr. Palmer could not bring through in a wagon. He drove a large pair of dappled grey mares and brought his stock with him. He came directly to her land, and her son's, which is three miles due north of Miami, and immediately began ploughing and preparing to make a home; while she and her son remained in Baxter, seeing him only on weekends. When the warm weather came she insisted on living with him, so their home for the summer was a large tent and a large cook shed that he erected by placing posts in the ground and a support through the middle from which the boards sloped each way.

p. 5

While living here one day she saw a Texas longhorn that had broken through the fence, headed for the tent, and she said that she boosted the son up on a salt barrel that stood by one of the posts and from the top of the barrel to the top of the shed and followed him and remained on the roof till after the steer was rescued and driven back towards the road; the driver stopped to apologize. That fall Mr. Palmer bought a two-room house with an attic and moved it on the land in which they lived till 1885, when he built the present five-room house with a hall and moved into it when the partitions were set and the floor laid; that summer he tacked muslin to the studdings for walls and plastered, that fall, before cold weather.

## JIMTOWN POSTOFFICE.

At this time people here were compelled to go to Baxter Springs for their mail and even a spool of thread, which was very inconvenient, so Mr. Palmer and his neighbors talking one day, suggested that they have a postoffice established in their neighborhood and they agreed that Mr. Palmer should be postmaster. The other three men were, Jim Moore, Jim Portis and Jim Newman; hence, the name Jimtown.

After application, in due time the postoffice was established and to Mrs. Palmer fell most of the responsibility of going to Baxter for the mail etc. This office was discontinued when the office was established in Miami.

LOCATED AT MIAMI.

Because of the poor school facilities, which they had, with the exception of a fall that Mr. Palmer's sister taught a subscription school across the road from them, they had sent their son to Baxter to school and to Miami after schools were opened there. At the time the blacksmith Kenny was killed by Bill West outlaw, the school building, a church used for school purposes, was just a block east of the blacksmith shop. That building still stands at the corner of A SE and 1st Ave SE and is known today as the Park Hotel. One of the shots fired by West went through the building and the teacher dismissed the children with instructions to get off the streets and hurry home. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer met their son hurrying home as they were coming to town about three o'clock.

Before leaving the farm, one night Mrs. Palmer was awakened by a noise at the door and heard a groan. She woke her husband and told him that someone was trying to get in.

When the noise was repeated, he called to see who it was and a voice said "Jim, for God's sake, let in in." Knowing the voice, he dressed and found one of their neighbors, George Smith, who was a mass of blood from head to foot. Mr. Palmer placed him on some old comforts and wanted to send for a physician, but the man was afraid to have him do so for fear that he would be traced and killed. He had been at Miami in a game which resulted in a fight and he lost eighty dollars. The next day aid was called and he removed to his home and he left the country with his family soon after.

Renting the farm, they moved to Miami and located a short way north of the present Frisco depot. Later they built basement house at 29 A NW and at this time Mr. Palmer was the city policeman and Mrs. Palmer relates the following incident; There was a picnic near the river close to the present old City Bridge on South Main St. Bill West stopped at a lemonade stand and became so rough in his language that it attracted Mr. Palmer's attention and he went to him and told him that there were ladies around and he must be quiet; whereupon, West turned and began cussing him.



p. 8

Mr. Palmer signaled to a man in a spring wagon to come near and he arrested West and brought him to the flimsy city jail, intending to leave him there till he sobered up. When he returned to look after him that afternoon the door was open and his man gone. That afternoon, some boys playing in a ravine between D & E ST SW heard two men riding past say that they were coming back that night and kill the policeman that no "G--M--" could arrest one of them and live. That night here was a dance at the McWilliams Hall and Mr. Palmer had insisted on remaining on duty in spite of his friend's advice to go home. About 11 o'clock he asked Mrs. Palmer if she was ready to go home, and they left the hall with an armed man walking in front and on each side of them. They reached his home and the men refused to allow Mr. Palmer to return to duty and instructed her to draw all blinds and lock all doors, but she adds, "I didn't sleep any that night, but Jim did."

## LATER LIFE

The Palmers lived in St. Louis during the World's Fair where he had employment and many of their friends visited them and she says that she was ~~pointed out~~ pointed out as an Indian during their travels, (though listed as a fullblood).

Emma Gordon, a Miami woman, the owner of the land where the famous Emma Gordon mine stands, lived near Fontana, Kansas, while visiting the Palmers, she met Hiram McBee, her husband, and as soon as she came of age, she leased the ground to Mr. Palmer who with his associates developed this property. This mine netted him a nice fortune, so they have been able to enjoy many things that their moderate though comfortable means had not permitted before; such as, summers in Colorado, numerous trips to California, months in Texas with trips into Mexico, etc.

Mr. Palmer died August 15, 1936, and at present Mrs. Palmer continues to live with a great-grandson; the third generation of children that she has reared.

She enjoys her neighbors and friends and takes an active interest in all about her.

PALMER, H. T.

INTERVIEW

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87