

HINDMAN, FELICE McINTOSH

INTERVIEW

#12063

437.

JOURNALIST, EFFIE S. JACKSON
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
November 5, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH FELICE McINTOSH
Hindman.
1201 East 20th, Street,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I am a McIntosh. There are many branches of this family-but it is the particular pride of those of us who are of true descent to keep our family lineage clear cut. Susannah Coe was a Cherokee. Catharine, not Hettie West, was a sister of D. N. McIntosh. There are eight generations of McIntoshes, going back to the old Scottish clan with its interesting history. Chief William McIntosh was the son of Captain William McIntosh, of Georgia. Captain William McIntosh the first had been married twice, each time to a Creek wife; by one he was the father of Chief William and by the other father of Roderick or Roley McIntosh. I have here a very excellent picture of Chief William in his colorful chieftain robe. The original painting is in the possession of the McIntosh

HINDMAN, FELICE McINTOSH-

INTERVIEW. - 12063

2

descendants.

Chief William McIntosh was married three times; to Susannah Coe, a Cherokee; to Peggy, a Creek and to Eliza Hawkins. Susannah Coe was a Cherokee and not a Creek. Most historians have listed Susannah as a Creek and Peggy as a Cherokee, but the exact opposite is true.

I am a descendent of Susannah Coe and William McIntosh. Their daughter, Rebecca, was my mother's mother. My brother and sister and I are on the Cherokee roll through this descent. By his marriage with Susannah Coe, Chief William McIntosh was the father of Daniel Newman McIntosh and of three daughters, Rebecca, Delilah and Catharine. By Eliza Hawkins he was the father of "Chilly" McIntosh. Delilah married William Drew; her daughter, Sue Drew Rogers who is now ninety-one years old lives with her niece, Mrs. John C. Lieber, 1211 Locust Street, Muskogee.

Catharine married James Dandridge Willison, a white man, whose family originally came from Virginia

3

and are related to George Washington through the Dandridge family. James D. Willison, Jr., was a son of this marriage; he was married to Mary Mackey, grand-daughter of Samuel Mackey, who owned the salt works. Mary Mackey Willison is still living at the age of eighty-six at 515 North Sante Fe Street, Tulsa. Ruby Willison was J.D., Jr.,'s sister and the mother of Hettie West.

Rebecca, the third daughter of Chief William McIntosh and Susannah Coe, was born in Georgia in 1815. I have the family records here. When Rebecca McIntosh was fifteen years old she married Benjamin Hawkins, a white man and a distant relative of Eliza Hawkins. Soon after their marriage they moved to Texas; that was about 1831-32. Rebecca did not wish to move to the Indian Territory- the tragedy of her father's death remained with her. Hawkins got a Spanish grant of thirteen thousand acres near Jefferson, Texas.

4

There they built a very pretentious, home with massive rooms and a central hall; eighteen feet wide. This house remained in excellent condition until destroyed by fire twenty-five years ago. Hawkins, interested in land and cattle deals, had occasion to go to the Indian Territory on business. While he was gone he was murdered and some important papers which he carried with him were stolen.

I do not know the date or place of his death. Sometime later these papers were found in the possession of Samuel Houston, so my grandmother, Rebecca, always believed that Houston was instrumental in causing his death.

Some years later Rebecca married Spire Haggerty. He was very rich in land and owned the Phoenix Plantation near Marshall, Texas. The combined number of the slaves of my grandmother and Haggerty totalled over five hundred and after the war, they remained faithful to the Haggertys.

My grandmother was very shrewd and a successful business woman-maybe it was because she had both

HINDMAN, FELICE McINTOSH-

INTERVIEW. 12063

5

Scotch and Cherokee blood. She had a half interest in the T.P. Goyz General Mercantile Company in New Orleans. She also owned a half interest in a cotton-boat that brought merchandise and staples from New Orleans to Jefferson, which at that time was at the head of navigation in Texas and returned to New Orleans loaded with bales of cotton.

I have an old valise that belonged to my grandmother. It is full of old papers some over one hundred years old, old import lists, grocery lists and bills of sale for slaves. Among the papers is a letter written by Chief William McIntosh.

By Rebecca's marriage to Hawkins there were two children; her daughter Louise was married to Willis Berry and their home is in Shreveport; they had a son, Samuel, who died when he was fifteen. My mother was Frances, daughter of Rebecca McIntosh and Spire Haggerty. My mother received very fine training, had a cultured background and schooling in the Loretto Academy in Kentucky; she spoke French

6

fluently. She married J. Hardy Berry of Jefferson. His people were French and Irish- he was born in Alabama. Of this marriage there were five children.

My grandmother, Rebecca, at a date which I cannot give, came to the Indian Territory and went before both the Creek and Cherokee Councils and had some sort of recognition made of her claims to both Creek and Cherokee Benefits. She did this because she never had lived in Indian Territory but she wanted her rights established for the benefit of her descendants. She made her Creek claim as the daughter of Chief William McIntosh who was Creek and Scotch; her Cherokee claim as the daughter of Susannah Coe, Cherokee. The proof was sufficient and later these claims were sent to Washington.

Years later when Indian benefits were due in Indian Territory my parents moved to Fort Gibson about 1888 or 89. We lived there for six months of the year and at "The Old Refuge" on the Haggerty.

7

Plantation near Jefferson, Texas, the rest of the time.

When my father made claims for benefits for his children he found they were not recognized because of non-residence. Through a young lawyer, W.W. Hastings of Tahlequah, later a United States Congressman, this claim was made in Washington.

There Mr. Hastings found the claims which my grandmother, Rebecca, had made years ago and because of those claims we are enrolled both on the Creek and Cherokee rolls. We wanted the Cherokee enrollment for money benefits- the land allotted to the Cherokees was poor- and the Creek enrollment for land benefits. That is our status today on the Cherokee roll because Susannah Coe, my grandmother, was a Cherokee.

Our family moved to Tulsa in 1903. I was married to Clarence J. Hindman, a Tulsa attorney, in 1908.