

POSTOAK, LINCOLN

SECOND INTERVIEW  
JAMES SAPULPA

#12460

247

Effie S. Jackson  
Journalist  
12-16-37

JAMES SAPULPA

From interview with Lincoln Postoak, Red Fork, and  
S. F. Lewis, 316 Alex. Bldg., Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. Lewis and Lincoln Postoak both knew James Sapulpa, for whom the town of Sapulpa is named. Mr. Lewis only has a boyhood remembrance of his appearance but recalls what his own father, Alexander Lewis, told him. Alexander Lewis knew him well. Lincoln Postoak grew up as a boy not so far from the Sapulpa ranch, ten miles southeast of what is now Sapulpa.

James Sapulpa was born in Alabama of Full Blood Creek parentage. His father's name was O-M-I-Y-A-, his mother's name is not known. Left an orphan when very young James Sapulpa grew up wild; was in many escapades which brought the soldiers on his trail. Legend has it that he was allied with James McHenry (later James Henry, a reformed leader among the Creeks at Lufaula) in his outlaw days in the South.

It seems that James Sapulpa brought considerable money with him to the Territory. According to the story told by his son, William Sapulpa, he loaned the Confederate Government \$1,000.00 in gold, and received a note in exchange. This note is said to be in existence today.\*

James Sapulpa seems to have come to the Creek Nation in an early day from St. Augustine, Florida, to Charlestown and then by boat to New Orleans from there to the new land of the Creeks. He married Nakitty, an Indian woman and took up some "field land" on Rock Creek about one mile southeast of where Sapulpa is today. His progressive-ness is shown by the fact that he started an early day store at his home about 1850. Here he sold coffee, sugar and tobacco to the Indians. This venture proved a failure, he tried it for two years. He had to get his goods by team or pack horses from Fort Smith or the old Agency- north of Muskogee.

In 1872 James Sapulpa started another store at his home on the hill southeast of what is now Sapulpa. The Osages on their westward trek often camped near there about where the courthouse is today in Sapulpa. This

was good business for him; the Osages bought liberally of staples. This time he got his supplies from Coffeyville. Again losing business Mr. Sapulpa turned to farming and ranching, taking up all the land ten miles south of his home.

During the Civil War, Sapulpa served three years in the Creek regiment of the Confederate Army, became first Lieutenant and was wounded in the battle of Elk Creek.

When the Frisco completed its extension to Sapulpa in 1881 this became the origin of the town named Sapulpa- in honor of James Sapulpa. James Sapulpa was married twice and has only one child living today, William Sapulpa. William lives over in the Bald Hill region.

In 1893, James Sapulpa married an orphan girl, daughter of Lats Barnett. Her sister was Suzanne, who had at the age of five, been given to Alice Robertson. She received a fine education. Later married E. Strouvelle of Tulsa. After Mr. Strouvelle's death she spent many years in Berlin where her daughter lived. Her daughter had married a German Officer. Mrs. Suzanne Strouvelle now lives in San Antonio.

4.

\*(This note is in the possession of Mrs. Lizzie Sapulpa, widow of James Sapulpa, deceased, the elder son of Chief James Sapulpa. Upon the death of Chief James the note became part of the son's inheritance. Mrs. Lizzie Sapulpa lives in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. -E. S. J.)