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Interview with George McIntosh by L. W. Wilson - Field Worker Historical Indian Research Work.

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I am 67 years old and live at 623 Katy Avenue, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Father:-Tobe McIntosh was born in Alabama, year 1826. Died 1911.

Buried in old Creek Agency Cemetery about 4 miles northwest of Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was a half-breed Creek.

Mother: -Tama McIntosh was born in Alabama, year 1833. Died in 1893. Buried along side of father at Creek Agency Cemetery. My mother was a Catawby Indian.

Grandmother: -Mother's side, Clooey Johnson, Catawby Indian, born in Alabama 1802. Died 1896 on Ash Creek and buried near the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma.

Grandfather:-Mother's side, Sam Stidem. Born in Alabama 1799. Died in 1880. Buried north of old Creek Agency northwest of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

MIGRATION

My ancestors were of Catawby and Creek Indian and Negro descent. On the Indian side they moved west with a man named John McIntosh from Alabama to the Indian Territory and settled near the present town of Coweta, Oklahoma. On the colored side were slaves of John McIntosh and McIntosh moved them along with him.

They made the trip by steamboat and continued by wagon train from Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Ft. Smith was as far as the boat came at that time which was about the year 1822.

Upon their arrival here they began to raise some cattle and farm in a small way.

I infer from what I have been told that this country had been designated as the new home for the Indians before the big removal of all the five tribes back east which followed my people some 15 or 20 years later.

white people back east wanting to get rid of them. My people thought if they would come right away they could get the better locations. Of course, John McIntosh had plenty of money and suffered no hardships in starting life anew other than hard work of himself and the slaves. They had tools of all kinds in which to start their new homes.

LIFE AND CUSTOMS OF THE SLAVES BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

With plenty of tools, oxen, wagons and supplies which were brought with them, they immediately began to build log cabins for the slaves as well as one for their master Joe.

Back east cabins were built about to to mile from each other on the plantations but when they built here, they were all close together as they might occur sensed that an intrusion of wild Indians at any time. In this way, they could all be together and fight it out with them. Master Joe brought guns, powder, lead, bullet moulds and caps with him from the old country (Alabama). The guns were old cap and ball muskets. He would not let his slaves keep them in their cabins but had a place near his cabin in which he kept all his guns. The man in charge of this cabin where the guns and powder was kept made all of the rifle balls and kept the guns cleaned up and ready for use. About all the guns were ever used for, was to hunt with and I can't recall them ever telling me of having to use them on account of a raid by the Indians.

They raised all they ate. made their own cloth with the spinning wheel, reel and looms. Of course, thread was made with the spinning wheel with which to sew their clothing.

Supplies were hauled from Ft. Smith, Arkansas at first to their ranch or plantation and sometimes from Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory, and later from Coffeyville. Kansas.

INTERVIEW.

McINTOSH, GEORGE

They made their own shoes. Would tan a cow hide with bark and eahes.

The shoes were sewed with waxed thread. The thread was made as I have told

you and them several strands were twisted together to make it strong and

then waxed with bee's wax that was saved when bee trees were robbed. The

needles used to do the sewing were hog bristles. The holes were made to

put the needle through the leather or cow hide with an awl. The sole of

the shoes were pegged on with wooden pegs that the slaved would whittle out

of maple or oak.

With what bread stuff they raised, they lived well because there were plenty of sage hens, grouse, turkeys, deer, etc. Wild fruits and berries were every place.

Little cotton was raised, if any at first, with which to make cloth. They would trade bread stuff for cotton sometimes or buy it at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Finally, Master Joe started to raising his own cotton.

The cattle was not sold at first and Master Joe started with only a few head and with the increase his herd grew to 300 or 400 head and finally he sold them to a cattle firm in Kansas. His other money came from hides with and furs and it was/this money he kept the ranch running.

At some time between their settling here and shortly before the Civil War, my grandfather, Sam Stidem, came into possession of a large number of acres of land, what would now be west and north of the Government Hospital at Muskogee, Oklahoma and south of Fern Mountain where the old Creek Agency was located. Later, my father, Tobe McIntosh, came in possession of this land before the Civil War and moved all of his people of blood kin there and they remained there until the war started.

I never did know how they left Master Joe unless there was some kind of an agreement made with him, possible due to being of blood kin.

I never could learn much of my grandparents on my father's side. See

his name was McIntosh and it must have been Master Joe McIntosh that was his daddy. He didn't know. I guess you know how things like that happened in those days.

CIVIL WAR

My grandfather Stidem was most 65 years old and never rought on either side. I guess he was too old to be a soldier.

My father emlisted not to right, but to have charge of government hauled teams at Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma to have freight and supplies/to the soldiers, from Kansas and Missouri. He has told me of the southern army one time capturing about 300 on a wagon train of supplies coming to Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory for the soldiers but he was not on that train she worked opposite shift and was in Kansas when this happened at what is now Pensacola, Oklahoma, up near the Neosha giver in the north part of the Cherokee Nation. His train was intercepted one time by the southern scouts but said the wagon train drove them back and routed them and they continued on to Ft. Gibson without more trouble, but they did kill about 20 of the men on the wagon train and these men were brought on to the Fort and buried down at Old Town (meaning the old town part of the present Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma). This encounter took place in the Myandotte reservation close to the Kansas line.

He continued to work for the government after peace was declared and hauled freight, many, many loads from the end of the MK&T railroad at Gibson station, which was the end of the railroad at that time to the soldiers at t. Gibson, Indian Territory.

Also from Nevins Ferry to the Fort, steamboats brought freight by boat from Ft. Smith, Arkansas to Nevins Ferry and Nevins Ferry was across the Arkansas Siver near the present Muskogee Pump Station.

He also later hauled freight from the Nevins Ferry to old Creek Agency and Okmulgee, Indian Territory over the old Arbuckle Road. - When he was

hauling freight over this road the government train and wagon camp was located on the north bank of the Arkansas miver which would be g mile north.

BATTLE AT HONEY SPRINGS

My father told me that he was not in the battle but remained at the Fort at Fort Gibson when the northern army went down to Honey Springs to whip the rebels. As I remember, he said the northern army surprised them one morning in July at daybreak, a clear day it was in the beginning but before noon it started to rain and the pawder of both armies got wet, but they battled on in the rain. Both sides lost heavily and finally the rebels retreated across the North Canadian and led the northern army. They were going east that night toward reinforcements, the northern army knew about this and they let them go and that some of the soldiers came back to rort Gibson and stayed and others rested and went on back to Kansas. It was learned afterwards the rebels did not go east but continued south on down into the Choctaw country and on to Ft. Washita.

THE PRODUCE GENERAL GENERAL SERVICE ENDED NORTH DE MUNICIPE, DEINEMAN WAS LIVE ATTENDED. He then lived at the old Creek Agency on the south side of Fern Mountain where he once brought all his kin to live before the war. It was while he was living there that I was born in 1870.

LIFE AND CUSTOMS OF THE POEPLE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

During the war my mother and other women and children were taken to ft. Gibson, Indian Territory, by the army of the north so they could protect them. When the war was over, my people were all reunited at the old Creek agency and life and living started anew, with building of cabins, churches, and schools. This was necessary due to the fact that all these things were burned during the war.

Cattle and hog raising was started over, together with farming, raising starten, corn and wheat Cattle and stock raising was the most principal

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thing and they depended on this for their money as the markets in the north were good.

Game, fish and wild fruits were as bountiful as before the war.
Clothing was homespun and store bought at the trading posts.

Namy made good money in trapping and hunting, selling and trading their pelts to fur buyers.

Many handicaps were overcome about food, clothing and household necessities due to the railroads and steamboats running on a monthly schedule from Ft. Smith and Little Rock, Arkansas.

from

Inventions were helpful fax grinding corn with a mortar, picking seed from cotton by hand and threshing wheat with a flail, to the hand grinders, water mills, horse power gins, horse power threshers, etc.

People began living good and all seemed happy once again.

They were hospitable, and enjoyed their social affairs, church and other social events.

They engaged in sports of all kinds. Horse racing seemed to be the greatest among the white people around Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory.

They had barbecues, picnics, shucking bees, sewing bees and everybody just seemed to get along as well or better than they do now. They had a heart for each other and loved each other better than now, for today it se ms every devil is for himself and cares nothing of his neighbors.

LIFE AND CUSTOMS OF THE CREEK INDIANS

I have lived in the Creek Nation all my life and know little of other Indians, but with them I lived and loved to live.

Their, thomes were of log cabins with large fireplaces. They farmed, raising corn, wheat, cotton and some livestock. They did their cooking in the fireplace and on outside open fires.

They all loved to hunt and fish and their meals consisted of wild game, fish, fruit and berries and their bread was most always cornbread cooked in one manner or the other. They had soups of all kinds that was made from corn and bits of diced meats. They dried their meats by placing it on the roof of their cabins and let nature take its course - the sum.

Their cooking utensils were pots, pans, skillets, dutch ovens and plates and bowls made of clay. Their cups were usually made of gourds, spoons of wood and knives of different kinds that were made at the government blacksmith shops of steel by the government blacksmith.

Their weapons were bows and arrows, made of Bois de Arc and Dogwood.

The bow strings were made of deer sinew, squirrel skins and some times strings of leather from a cow hide. The arrows sometimes had spike ends and other time gig ends. The gigs were used in shooting fish. The others were used in hunting game of all kinds.

they made their faux face paints from different barks of trees boiled down with flour or meal added to make a paste. Pokeberries were used to paint their cheeks red. Soft rocks were used to pencil marks on their faces. The Creeks never were feather headgears, it was the wild Indians that did that. The Creeks loved bright colored clothes and blankets and very fond of beads and earrings.

A full-blood Creek woman always carried her baby on her back instead of in her arms like we do today. They could take their blankets and wrap it around them so the baby could be comfortably carried.

Some of the Creeks were artistic. They could make baskets out of elm and hickory splits, some were made fancy, others for service like a cotton basket. Some made bowls, vases and little images out of clay and colored them.

thing he wanted, he did not care for the cost or shop around about it.

He bought it and paid for it. The white man knows that better than I.

The Indians loved sports; ball games, horseraces and foot races. They were religiously inclined and had their own kind of ceremonies as well as attending the missions.

They had their stomp dances nearly every year at about green corn time.

These dances were a religious ceremony more than just a dance. They would cleanse their systems of all foods and to do so cleansed their souls and then partake of food and make merry, sing and dance for all God had given them here on earth.

The Creeks medicines were of barks, herbs and roots. They used snake root, butterfly root, boneset, sasafrass bark, sarsaparilla roots and many more.

CREEK LAWS

The Creek Nation was divided into districts with one principal Chief elected by the Citizens of the tribe. The Capitol of the Creek Nation was first at Council Hill or High Spring. That was at the present town of Council Hill, Oklahoma and then a new Council House was built at Okmulgee and it became the Capitol.

They had their own treasurer and other officers.

Each district was policed by light horsemen. I lived in the Muscogee district. Our court was at Lee. Lee was sometimes called Mealington and was some 3 miles north of the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma on Cane Creek.

I want in the capacity as a light horseman. There were five in our district and then a number who were assistants we could draft for help when needed. One of each five was a Captain and my Captain's name was James Connel. I served 4 years under Capt. Connel. I arrested many. If we arrested a man for carrying concealed weapons, we would take the weapon and then sell it back to him, that would be his fine. I arrested a fellow named George

Mayfield for stealing a cow. He got fifty lashes at the whiping post. I arrested Mose Robinson for stealing a gold watch from Rebecca Turner and he was whipped and so on. A fellow by the name of Tom Bernoske, a half-breed, killed a pastor of a Church near the present town of Tktaha, Oklahoma. He was tried and shot. Then I caught him, he had over a 150 different padlock keys in his pockets.

I cam see him now sitting on that little box by the Court House ready to be shot.

Some of the judges at the Court house at Lee, a little log cabin, was Judge H. H. Hawkins, Alex McIntosh, and Judge Heed.

Some of the Prosecuting Attorneys were wave Lee, Wallace and McNack. pessengers

Lee was also a trading post and a stage stand. Mail and paragram
from Muskogee was transferred at Lee for Okmulgee, Indian Territory. Judge
Lee and Dan McGilbus ran a store. Dan Lee was the postmaster and Dr. Barnett
looked after the stage horses and fed the stage drivers.

Lee Post passed out as a trading post when the railroad built through the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma and the courts were no more after the tribal laws were abolished.

I want to tell your about a murderer named Ceorge Curle. Well, George killed a fellow at Hector Perryman's ferry which crossed the Arkansas River north of the present town of Taft, Oklahoma. I helped the U.S. Marshals to catch him. We located him in the Lucas Barber Shop in Muskoree down on south 2nd st. He had on the murdered man's clothes and wore his watch. He was tried and sentenced to hang and did hang at the old Federal prison located then at 4th and Demison streets in Maskogee, Indian Ferritory. You can see some of the remains of this old prison at 4th and Demisons today.

A man maked Sam Saulman preached Curlie's funeral. Bill Barker, a Cherokee,

U. S. Jailer, sprang the trap door that let him fall and break his meck.

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The three Cook boys of the Cook gang of outlaws were also hanged at this prison. I knew of other outlaws. Cherokee Bill was hanged at Ft.

Bill Smith, Arkansas. The Buck gang was also hanged at Ft. Smith. / Cook died Ben with T. B. while in jail. I don't know what they did with. / Cotton. I knew the Dalton boys, James boys, and Ben and Josn Tobla.

U. S. MARSHALS

Bass Reeves, colored. He hauled the prisoners to Ft. Smith with the prison wagon. There was Heck Thomas, Robert Marshall, Mose Warshall, Scott Gentry, Bud Ledbetter, John West and lots more that all helped to suppress crime in the early days.

If we had the old whipping post back we could break up lots of these petty crimes of today. If some of these young fellows getting 30 to 60 days in jail were given about 50 lashes they would quit and not come back for another 50 lashes, believe me! I think some of these older folks would agree with me on that.

GREEN PEACH WAR

I was about 12 years old when the trouble started. That would be in 1882. I was living at the old Agency.

Many of the Indians and colored said it was a crooked election. They were not going to let Checotah become their Chief, but he was made Chief nevertheless. Spieche aroused enthusiasm among his supporters and put out to organize an army to overthrow the Chief Checotah. Checotah men organized to see that he didn't do it. They had a few little skirmishes down on Sugar Creek and around on Pecan Creek that summer. That winter the main battle tok place on the day before Christmas down on Greenleaf Creek near about the town of present Okemah, Oklahoma. I was only a boy but Spieche made me go.

Checotah's men whipped Spieche and he retreated to the Sac and Fox Country.

Sitting Rabbit, one of his right hand men, was killed and many more. The

Light Horsemen caught Mer in the Sac and Fox Agency in the Sac Country. Their

nemes were Samson Brown and James Turner and brought me to Okmulgee and told

too be

me I was to young to/out with either side and asked me why I was with Spieche

and I told them the truth that his men made me go. From Okmulgee I came

back to my mother at the old Agency.

The Sac and Fox people got after Spieche and his men and they retreated to the Cheyenne Country. They sure had him on the run all the time. The soldiers from Ft. Gibson went down into the Cheyenne Country, captured them and marched them all back to Ft. Gibson as prisoners. They camped Spieche and his men about 2 miles from the Fort and guarded them for months. Spieche's men wanted to give up and go back home to be peaceable long before Spieche signed an agreement to quit. He finally signed a treaty and that was the end of the Green Peach War as far as I know anything about it.

SCHOOLS AND MISSIONS

The Tulahassee Mission was located near the present town of Tulahassee, Oklahoma. I attended this Mission. My teacher was Miss Alice Robertson. She also taught me at the school at the Old Creek Agency on Fern Mountain.

The colored Orphenage was at the present location of the Veterans Hospital west of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Minnie Barnett, Nick Perryman, George Taylor and Joe Howard, taught at theis orphanage.

Pecan Mission was on Pecan Creek about 7 miles west of Muskogee, Indian Territory. Sarah Davis was the matron, Eli Jacobs a teacher and Bus Hawkins the Superintendent.

The present Agency School was a free school and was taught by Mrs. B. Moore, and Lavina Sango. Its located about 3 miles northwest of Muskogee, Indian Territory.

Canaan School was a free school and taught by Laura Hitchcock. It was about 2 miles north of Muskogee, Indian Territory and joined Lewis Jobe allotment.

Black Jack School is 7 miles west and 3 miles north of Muskogee, Indian Territory, a free school and was taught by Ellen Ranta.

In later years after going to school at the Orphanage at Agency Hill west of Muskogee, my old teacher Joe Howard gave me a job of teamsters and I worked for him a long time. He had a contract hauling supplies for the nation of the Creeks. So I guess my dad's footsteps were followed as far as teaming was concerned.

I hauled freight to Okmulgee, Wealaka and intermediate points.

FORDS AND FERRIES

Simeon Brown ferry was owned and operated by Simeon Brown. It crossed the Arkansas liver near the present Spaulding Bridge, northwest of Muskogee. John Leacher Ferry was owned and operated by John Leacher. It crossed the Arkansas river, which could be located by going due north on & Mill Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma until you reach the river.

The Nevins Ferry was owned and operated by Mose and Julia Nevins and crossed the Arkansas River near the present Muskogee Pump Station. The Rector Perryman Ferry was owned and operated by Hector Perryman and crossed the Arkansas River directly north of the present town of Paft, Oklahoma.

The Texas Ferry was upstream from the Simeon Brown Ferry, about 1 mile and was owned and operated by Henry Texas. It crossed the Arkansas kiver about one mile and a half upstream from the present Spaulding Bridge northwest of Nuskogee, Oklahoma.

The Rogers Ferry was owned and operated by the Roger Brothers. It crossed the Arkansas River at about St.L & S.F. Rr. bridge east of Muskogee,

The old government ferry operated by the soldiers at rt. Gibson, 331 crossed the Grand River just north of the present Missouri, Pacific Railroad Bridge northwest of Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma.

The French Ferry was owned and operated by Tom French. It crossed the Grand River just south of the present highway bridge northwest of Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma.

At times when the Arkanses river was low, it could be forded at the Nevins, Brown and Texas Ferries. The Rabbit Ford was east of the present village of Riverside, close to the Rogers Perry and crossing of the river could be made here during low water times on the river.

ROADS AND TRAILS

The Arbuckle Road left the Nevins Ferry and ran due west, passing the site of old Ft. Davis, to the government team camp and continued west to the old Creek Agency on south side of Fern Mountain, thence in a southwest direction by the present Black Jack School, thence south bearing a little west to Lee Post (near the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma), and thence southwest to Okmulgee, Indian Territory. I do not know where it led to from Oklahoma other than it ran down into the Sac and Fox Country.

The Texas Road left Nevins Ferry and ran southwest for about 2 miles which would be east of the present School for the Blind and thence south, crossing Elk Creek, North and South Canadian Rivers and connected with the 1849 Trail for points in the Choctaw, Seminole and Thickasaw Country and on ino Texas.

The old Stage Line Road west out of Muskogee, ran west out on what would now be Okmulgee Avenue, crossing Pecan Creek near the Pecan Mission, thence southwest fording Cane Creek twice and reaching Lee Post (Boynton, Okla. now) and thence west by the government Creek Blacksmith Shop, crossing Brown Creek into Okmulgee, Indian Territory.

There were many cow trails we hight Horsemen rode but of course they are all gone. We would always take the shortest route on horse back from ranch to ranch.

TRADING POSTS

Old Creek Agency on east side of Fern Mountain northwest of Muskogee, Oklahoma. It was the largest in the Creek Nation, the next closest one was Ft. Gibson in the Cherokee Nation and the next Okmulgee, in the Creek Nation. At the agency was first 2 stores then 4, a cake shop run by Sopha Conrad, (she got all my money when I was a kid), a hotel run by Big Sarah Gibson. Some of the old residents were Lewis Sanger, Andy Murrell, Jim Tomm, Jess Franklin, Wary Morrison, Jess Johnson, Sam Barnett and many more. The MEAT Railroad built thru the Verdigirs and Arkansas Rivers bottoms south to Texas and Muskogee town was started. We use to call Muskogee, Arkansas Town.

A Trading Post was at Cow Town, now Coweta, Oklahoma. It was known as Cow Town Post.

Sawokli Saw, Okiabana was south of now Haskell, Oklahoma. Some 2 miles. Just one store and postoffice in the store. It passed out when the Midland Valley Railroad builtthrough that section in the early nineteen-hundreds. Haskell town got all the business formerly at Saw, Oklahoma.

Lee Trading Post passed out when the Frisco passed through that section.

As I have said Lee was 3 miles north of Boyaton, Oklahoma.

The Choski Post was about 4 miles south and 2 miles west of the present town of Porter, Oklahoma. The MKAT Railroad built through this section and Porter named after our Chief Pleasant Porter, got some of the people from this post. A few went to Clarksville, Indian Territory and others later to Haskell, Oklahoma and this post is no more.

The Maynard Post was east of Ft. Gibson in the Cherokes Nation on Maynard

Bayou. I knew little of it but know it has long been done away with.

TOLL BRIDGES

I knew of only two. One on north Elk Creek and one on south Elk Creek on the lexas Road to North Fork Town. One was run by James McIngosh, and the other by Mrs. Drew. I seldom ever went into the Eufaula & Okmulgee Districts of the Creek Nation.

FORTS

The only forts I knew was Ft. Gibson and the one father told me of which was Ft. Davis.

Ft. Gibson was at the present town of rt. Gibson, Oklahoma.

Ft. Davis was a confederate fort and was located on the Arbuckle foad about 4 miles due west of Ft. Gibson and the fort was burned by the north in the early part of the War. It was located on the south bank of the Arkansas River near than where the present MKAT Railroad crossesthe Arkansas, River north of Muskogee, Oklahoma. I have been out to the site of this old Ft. Davis. A man named Harris now owns the land. There are some 3 or 4 mounds on the place supposedly to have been there long before the Indians was moved from Alabama.

ALLOTMENTS. PAYMENTS AND ANNUITIES

I never received any monies frameter from the government for anything except little payments of \$14.00, \$16.00 and \$27.00 a few times called bread money.

I filed and enrolled with the Dawes Commission in 1896. I received 160 acres of land near the present town of Beland Oklahoma.

People who were not citizens of the nation had to pay a permit to live and work here. Bill Robinson here in Muskogee Oklahoma now was the Collector. They had to pay \$2,00 a month to him to stay and work here. Then it got to a

\$1.00 and finally nothing.