

BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) May 13 1937

1. Name Siegal E. McIntosh (Colored, part Indian)

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Oklahoma R. 2

3. Residence address (or location) 9 miles Southeast of Henryetta

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1872

5. Place of birth 4 miles East of Haskell

6. Name of Father William McIntosh Place of birth Near Tallahassie
 Indian Territory

Other information about father Indian McIntosh's slave

7. Name of Mother Rodie McGilbra Place of birth Near Norburg (Weleetka)
 Indian Territory

Other information about mother An Indian woman

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 9.

INTERVIEW WITH SIEGAL McINTOSH

FIELD WORKER GRACE KELLEY

May 13, 1937

Norburg Sawmill.

When my mother was born there was no "eleetka," there was a sawmill owned by a man named Norburg but I don't know his initials. You can get the exact location by going to Pharaoh, then two and a half miles southwest to Adam Grayson's place. He can take you right to the place. It was near the old Jackson Barnett homeplace.

MAIL.

They first got mail from Okmulgee, then they got it from Okemah, which is a little older than Weleetka.

CHOSKA, GHOST TOWN.

Choska was a few miles below Porter on the Arkansas River, to be exact it was seven miles southwest of Porter. There are a few houses there now but no stores. Mr. Lipscomb opened the first store there. They had a cotton gin, saw mill, that cut walnut timber, and the store.

WICKEDEST PLACE IN CREEK NATION
SODOM.

Five miles northwest from Muskogee near Tallahassie there was a place, no houses, just an open place, where the Cherokees

2

and Creeks had horse races, rooster fights, and the like. There was so much bloodshed that it was called "Sodom" after the city in the Bible. The race track is still there but it is grown up considerably with weeds and brush.

WYBARK (VERDOCK)

Wybark was the first stop north of Muskogee, the Katy later changed the name to Verdock. At first there was just a depot and no town, then a church, a school and a few stores.

TEXAS CATTLE TRAIL.

The part of the trail that I know about was from Okemah to Weleetka, passed the McKloskie home, crossed Bad Creek where the bridge is now, went just east of Joe Bob Watson's store and crossed up the sandy ridge. It didn't go over the hills if they could find a way around, unless they were going to pasture. They would drive miles around a hill before going over it when they were going to market because the hills took the fat off of the cattle.

GENTRY FERRY.

The Gentry Ferry was between Haskell and Porter. There is a bridge above or west of the Ferry now.

3-

WELLINGTON, LEE, BOYNTON THE SAME.

David Lee was a colored Tribal lawyer of the Canadian Town. Each town had a place similiar to our County Seat where they had court and punished the ones found guilty. David Lee established this place and called it Wellington, then changed it to Lee. He owned a store and a rooming house which his wife took care of. That was a stopping place for the coach between Muskogee and Okmulgee. When the Frisco railroad came through, it was to the south so the stores moved south and the Frisco named it Boynton.

SCHOOLS.

The first school I went to was a Mission on Coal Creek at Haskell. Then I went to the Pittsburg Mission (Presbyterian).

TALLAHASSIE MISSION.

Mr. E. H. Richel, was Superintendent. Mr. Perkins, Teacher and the matrons were Miss Carrie, Miss Perkins, Miss Osbourne, and Miss Chandler.

The Presbyterian National Board appropriated some money to build some missions and to pay the teachers and other expenses of these Missions. This one was built one and three quarter miles southwest of Yahola, a hundred yards off of the highway. It was

4

later burned down by lightning.

Tallahassie Mission was first built for the Indian children, then another was built for the Indians and Tallahassie was used for the colored children. The same principals were used for the colored schools as for the Indian schools. The Indian National Council appropriated the money to pay the expenses. They had a fund to draw from that they had gotten through the sale of land in Alabama and Georgia and the permits they sold to white persons wanting to live in the Territory (\$1.00 each).

When I first started there, they had white persons working and running it who were experienced and had never worked at anything else. There was an Industrial School where we learned how to work to make a living. There was a hundred acres of farm land where we had to raise what we had to eat. They knew how to prepare our meals so that we would have good ones at a low cost.

Later, the school was turned over to some colored people whose intentions were as good as the white people's had been but they were inexperienced and the school went down under them until they learned how to do and then it got better but never as

5

good as it had been before.

There were three schools for the colored, one on Pecan Creek, seven miles west of Muskogee, one at Tallahassie, and the Orphan's Home on the old Agency Hill, Muskogee. There were several for the Indians, I remember one on the hill at Okmulgee, the Coweta Mission and Wealacka.

MUSKOGEE FROM ITS BEGINNING OR AGENCY HILL.

The Government first built what they called the "Block House" or Agency Headquarters. It was a block house, the rocks were quarried out of the hill and rolled up there with oxen. Then the Agent stayed there with a few soldiers; most of them stayed at Fort Gibson which has a long history all of its own. Then there were some stores and homes built. The Katy came through to the east and under the hill. The Agency and stores were moved to the railroad and it was given the name of Muskogee. A Colored Orphan's Home was put on the Agency Hill. Later it was sold to Muskogee for a hospital. Then when Alice Robertson was Post Mistress of Muskogee (her folk were Missionaries before her), she was influential in getting the Government to buy it for the Veteran's Hospital. The only historical house at Muskogee is still standing there on that hill now.

-6

THE OLDEST CHURCH.

There is an old church called The Fountain that was the first one. It was three and a half miles north of Muskogee. There were two negro slaves, ministers, who were charter members.

NOT ALL NEGROES WERE SLAVES.

Some of the negroes bought their freedom and others were freed by their owners. A real Christian thought it wrong to own a person and freed the ones he owned. The Indians owned slaves and sometimes a slave could talk English, in which event the Indian would take him as an Interpreter when he would go to trade with the horse-traders or to Kansas City or other places, because the negro could talk English and also knew the value of an animal and would save his owner from buying a poor or no-good animal, as well as from paying too much for it. His owner would give him a colt or calf or maybe money. He would have his freedom in mind and would save the money and raise the animals to sell for more money. In that way, he would finally get enough to buy himself and he knew how to support himself as well. Some of them were more thrifty than their owners for the reason that they

2

had this reason for thrift while the owner just waited for the Government to pay and take care of them. I've heard of a slave owner borrowing from his slave.

Sugar George was the wealthiest of these that I ever heard of. His place was north of Lee.

RECORD TAKING FOR THE DAWES COMMISSION,
1892.

My father, William McIntosh, was Town King of the Arkansas Town, which is a colored town. I was his Clerk. At each Council it was necessary for us to be at the Council House in Okmulgee. When Charles Curtis, the Senator from Kansas, got the bill passed and the Dawes Commission made the request for the Kings to turn the roll in so they could make a list of the citizens of the Creek nation, Father turned the roll in but it wasn't perfect in that it contained the names of some persons who had died. The Commission wanted the living ones only. The Clerk or Secretary had to go to the Treasurer's room, E. B. Childers was Treasurer then, and copy the rolls as he had them from the payment that had just been completed when the Government had paid \$14.00 a head. They had approved that roll as being correct. I had to copy our part of that record and send it in as our roll.

8.

LIGHT HORSEMEN AND CAPTAINS.

Each Town had a Light Horse Captain who was like a Sheriff, and he deputized younger men who could ride well as Light Horsemen. The warrants were turned over to him by the Court and he gave them to the Light Horseman who lived nearest to the person the warrant was for. He always appointed them from different parts of his town so they wouldn't have to go so far and have better control or service.

Jimmie Grayson, Light Horse Captain, lives at Porter. Bab Davis, Sampson Brown are both dead as is also Jim Colonial.

CIVIL WAR.

My father was a slave belonging to Yonah McIntosh (the ancestor of Elic McIntosh, Superintendent of schools, and Chessie McIntosh, lawyer and the last Superintendent of Schools). He went North to Kansas under Scott. Grant was losing ground and word came that the Confederates were going to take the Indian Territory. So the women went to Kansas, too.

The Abolitionists were people who didn't believe in owning slaves. They came from the North and directed the ones going out, and cared for the women and children.

There a man sympathized with the negro and the freeing of them, there wasn't any danger but if he was against it, the negro had to stay and raise food for the Confederates as they needed more food than they had. Sometimes slave traders would find one or more trying to get to the North and would capture him or them, tie them hand and foot, if necessary, and then take them and sell them to buyers who thought the South would surely win. They would get them cheap and if the South had won they would have sold them at a huge profit. However, they lost instead of gaining.