

McINTOSH, SIMON

INTERVIEW

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MCINTOSH, SIMON. INTERVIEW.

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

Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emons.

Report made on (date) August 10. 1937.

Name Simon McIntosh.

Post Office Address General Delivery, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) 915 North Muskogee, Street.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 4 Year 1858.

Place of birth Eight miles west of Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Name of Father Elic McIntosh. Place of birth Baltimore, Maryland.

Other information about father A slave, brought here by his owners.

Name of Mother Aggie Rentie. Place of birth Near Wagoner, Indian Territory.

Other information about mother Taken to Texas by her owners during the Civil War and returned here eleven years later.

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. Use blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 7.

MCINTOSH, SIMON.

INTERVIEW.

7104.

Jerome M. Emmons,  
Interviewer.  
8-10-37.

Interview with Simon McIntosh.  
Mr. McIntosh, who lives at 915  
North Muskogee St., Okmulgee,  
is a member of the Arkansas negro  
Town of the Creek Nation.

## EXECUTIONS.

I saw many executions and whippings administered at the Council House. Dave Stake, who had killed his wife and child, was executed there and buried in the Frisco Cemetery. I saw Timmy Jack and a man named Kimie executed.

The tree used as a whipping post is still there on the Council House lawn.

## COUNCILS.

Sugar George and Jesse Franklin (Creek Freedman) were my uncles and both members of the Creek Council.

They, 'Coon Creek' Harry and twenty-one other delegates were sent on a mission to Washington. There, the colored delegates were pushed forward to speak for the Indians. They seemed to be able to better express the wishes of the Creek Tribe than the Creeks themselves. The Government officials called upon said "We want to

MCINTOSH, SIMON.

INTERVIEW.

7104.

-2-

talk to the Indians. What are these colored men doing the talking for?" The Creek delegates said, "What's the matter? We want them to talk for us." So the Government officials saw that the Creeks thought of the negroes as being equal with themselves. That is all changed now.

## FORTS.

There was a Fort called, 'Jeff Davis Fort' near the river east of Muskogee, at what is now called Jeff Davis Hill. I believe part of the Breastwork is still standing.

Later, this Fort was moved across the river and called Fort Gibson.

## COUNCILS CONTINUED.

As a boy, I used to go to the Council Meetings with my uncles: Jesse Franklin, Sugar George, W. A. Rentie and his father, Rentie Grayson. At that time the meetings were held in the double log house at the present site of the Stone Council House.

When they were voting on something, they would form two lines. Those in favor of a proposal would kneel and those otherwise would remain standing. They would then be counted by several others to prevent a mistake in the results of the vote.

MCINTOSH, SIMON.

INTERVIEW.

7104.

-3-

## LIGHTHORSEMEN.

I have seen men given one hundred lashes by the Lighthorsemen, who seemed to be nearly cut to the bone. Sometimes, ten men would give ten lashes each, which was much worse that way than if one man had administered them.

In some of the early executions, the muzzle loader was still in use. If the Lighthorsemen could be bribed, the gun would be loaded backwards, that is, the powder rammed in after the shot. The men would be freed, sometimes, after the shot failed to kill him.

## GREEN PEACH WAR.

The Green Peach War was fought for this reason: The Government sent a per capita payment of \$40.00 to the Creeks and Freedmen. Samuel Checote, the Chief, reduced it to \$4.00. Isparhechar told all the Indians and Freedmen, he could, not to take it. He then went to Washington and saw the Government. They told him that the money was out of their control and that he would have to fight Sam Checote for the payment.

I joined up with Isparhechar and worked as a Scout. I scouted at one time near Green Leaf.

-4-

While out west of here, we had obtained reinforcements from the Choctaw Nation and were coming through the Chickasaw Nation or the Sac and Fox Reservation, Isparhechar looked through his field glasses and saw six regiments of soldiers and some of Checote's men coming. We hoisted a red flag, but when they got closer we saw that they had a white one raised so we raised a white one also. They sent out about sixty men half-way and Isparhechar went out with a like number and they talked awhile.

Isparhechar came back and made a speech. We were then arrested and taken to Fort Gibson, where some were released and some he'd o. peace bonds.

Before we were arrested, we had had a skirmish on Turkey Creek, this side of El Reno, and made Checote's men hit the water. Several men were killed on both sides. I had a horse killed on that occasion.

Checote's men were armed and the country somewhat torn up after this conflict. Checote said that we were to come in and help make laws. When we came to Okmulgee, he arrested fifty of us and held us on the top floor of the Council House. Some were killed for resisting arrest.

-5-

My uncles were in the Council, as well as the friends of other Esparhechar men, <sup>and</sup> they pleaded for Checote's men not to kill us.

Sleeping Rabbit, a Cherokee General of Esparhechar's, was killed by Dave Sizemore, a Lighthorseman and Checote's soldier. He, or someone else, tripped Sleeping Rabbit and Dave shot him in the back. I was looking out the window and saw him killed.

Someone said, "Is he dead?" Sizemore said, "He wasn't Sleeping, but he is now!"

## FAIRS.

I entered three horses in the first fair held at Muskogee. This fair didn't amount to much, there was some stock and maybe a few agriculture/exhibits. Some Comanches came over and danced their war dance.

## TRADING POST.

Muskogee was <sup>first</sup> located five miles east of the present site. . . . When the M. K. & T. came through, the town was moved there and built around the depot. Captain F. B. Severs, Jim Parkinshon, Atkinson, Kingcade, A. B. Cast and Sanger all had stores at the former site.

-6-

## DAWES COMMISSION.

The Dumb roll and the "defendicated" roll, as I call it, were used to prove rights to land and money payments in the Creek Nation.

I worked on the Dawes Commission in 1907 and 1908, helping to identify people for allotments.

## FOOD.

Roll books were kept at Fort Gibson by which we were issued groceries from the commissary. We were issued for some time after the Civil War: flour, sugar, coffee, blackeyed peas, blankets and some money. The money was first gold and later silver. I have seen \$600,000.00 in silver half-dollars brought into the Creek Nation for payments. I remember a \$29.00 and a \$12.50 payment.

## STAGE.

When I was living at Old Agency, as a boy, I saw the stage coaches running between there and Fort Gibson.

## SCHOOLS.

I went to school one year at Old Agency. I was about fourteen when my father left us, shortly after my mother's death, and I had to quit school and take care of my brothers and sister.



-7-

## FERRY.

Before the M. K. & T. got to Vinita, Indian Territory, cattle were driven to Coffeyville for shipment. I worked on Leecha's Ferry, four miles north of Muskogee and two and a half above the M. K. & T. bridge on the Arkansas River. I worked there six or eight years. Leecha was my brother-in-law.

## MARRIAGE.

Leecha, a full-blood Creek Indian, married an older sister and I the younger. I left the ferry job when my first wife died.

I have been married five times. I have only one grown son left; seven now done. (meaning dead)

## OLD OKLAHOMA.

I was in Oklahoma City, cooking for some gamblers, six months before the run in 1889. It was just a town of tents before the run. Afterwards, you could hear hammers ringing all day long. I returned to Muskogee soon after the run.