

INDEX CARDS

Lane, Garrett
California Gold Rush--Cherokees
Household Manufactures--Cherokee
Cherokee Neutral Strip
Civil War Refugees--Northern
Agencies--Quapaw
Allotments--Cherokee Neutral Strip
Lodges
Payments--Cherokee
Agencies--Cherokee

THE NEUTER STRIP DAYS.

Interview with Mrs. Tennessee James, (Cherokee)
Mannie Lee Burns, Field Worker,
April 22, 1937

Tennessee Almira Lane James was born on the Cherokee Neuter Strip, four miles up from the mouth of Shoal Creek near Baxter Springs, Kansas, February 16, 1849, at her Grandfather, David M. Harlan's, home. p. 210

My mother was Jane M. Harlan, a Cherokee.

My father, Garrett Lane of English and French descent.

They came with the Cherokees here from North Carolina, I think, and to the best of my knowledge were married near Mayville. When I was two months old, my father left my mother and a sister, two years old with my Grandfather and in the spring of 1849 started wagon-train overland to California. I am told that the people who composed this company had been gathering along waiting till the grass was old enough to feed their oxen, cows were taken along with the oxen. The trip took all summer and they reached California that fall, that is my father did but I had two uncles who died of fever on the way and were buried on the plains. My father with his partner, Ed Crutchfield, a half-breed Cherokee, worked two years together and then my father fell in the mine and was killed by the fall. My father's partner made a division of their earning and mother

2

received half of it but my sister and did not get ours till we were twenty-one years old. It(our money) was handled by various public administrators and finally I was paid by a public administrator of Missouri after I was married. I only received \$130.00 or \$135.00.

EARLY LIFE.

Mother, sister and I continued to live with grandfather till mother married my step-father, John Blythe, and then we still lived near. We always had lots of stock, horses, cattle and sheep, my mother and sister after she was old enough helped with the herding as we had no fences, only around the lots and fields. I also began to ride with them as I grew older and possibly many things happened and I had many little experiences that would seem strange today but to us they were only the day's work.

My mother died when I was ten years old, on July, 1859 and as I was not large enough to be of much help to my step-father, I was sent to live with my grandfather, but my sister was kept at home to help with my step-brothers and sisters, to help around the house; then, too, she could spin. Being sent to my grandfather's home, I did not have the hard work to do that she did but spent much of my time out of doors and in the saddle

3

with very little school as we only had a subscription school for short periods. (My sister, Mrs. Ellen Hillen is now 91 years old and lives in Fairland, Okla.) I did however do a little spinning, some yarn and after I was married wove myself two dresses and some linsey.

CIVIL WAR PERIOD.

During the first two years of the Civil War, we remained on the old home place and then were ordered to Kansas. But during that time we had much stock stolen and killed and driven away. Two of our neighbors were called to the door after dark and shot, so grandfather took the two teams of horses we had and went to Kansas some time before we left. When we were ordered to Kansas, we loaded as much as we could into the two ox-wagons and started driving what cattle we had left and about forty or fifty head of sheep. It was hard to get the sheep across the streams as we had to cross Spring River almost as soon as we started, however we got the sheep about twenty miles when they scattered and we could not take time to get them together so we went on without them and I heard that a woman living near Springfield, Mo., rounded up the sheep and sold them. We went to Humbolt, where grandfather had rented a farm and farmed the first year. Grandfather's

sympathies were with the south though we could say little or nothing one of my single uncles, while we were living in Kansas joined the Union Army. I wondered why but then there were always men and parties of men coming, trying to get the men to join the army, so possibly our living there had something to do with this. One day, I heard my grandfather say to Bob Taylor "Go home and lay down your arms for if the Union wins, we won't have anything left," Also I remember hearing them talking about it when we heard that Stand Watie had surrendered under a white flag on Cabin Creek.

A single uncle after the first year hauled goods across the country from Boonville, Mo., to Burlington, Kansas. My grandmother died in 1864 and was buried in Kansas.

After the war closed we returned to our home in Indian Territory and began to repair and prepare to live again on the old place. It was in a very bad condition and there was much work to do.

MARRIAGE.

On October 16, 1866, I married Solon James, a white man who was born in Missouri but raised in the Cherokee Nation.

5

We lived at the old Military Crossing on the river for six or eight years till our children began to need the advantage of school so we moved about four miles south of Chetopa, Kansas. After the war, there was no town to speak of at Baxter Springs but soldiers were kept there under permit (here she adds from Mr. Rogers, Cherokee).

Major Born, was the Quapaw Agent at this time. Travel was not easy in those days and we were always glad to have our friends stop with us. To us life was not quite so lonesome as the mail had passed and crossed going both ways and when the river was past fording often had to wait till it was fordable.

I was twelve years old when I was in the first store, which was the Turkey Creek Lead mine Store about ----- miles. Humbolt, Kansas was the first town I ever saw.

Beddings Mill just out of Joplin, Mo., was my first mill. My grandfather was a millright and was often sent for to repair the mill and would sometimes be gone several days. Falls Mill on Shoal Creek was only five miles from us. Solon and I had eleven children, three of them dying when small, eight of them grew up and seven of them are yet living our oldest son Calvin James of Fairland is 70 years old. They were;

-6

Calvin James, Fairland, Okla. Lorenzo D. James, Miami, Okla.

Della Copeland, Welch, Okla. Albert James, Washington, D. C.

Lula -----, married and lives near Hickory Grove, Okla.

Cornelia -----, died in Denver, Colorado. Jesse James,
Miami, Claud James, Miami,

We moved from south of Chetopa, to one mile west of Denmark,
Okla. (now Hickory Grove) where there was a day (Cherokee)
school and lived there forty years.

In 1916 on December 6th we move to Miami to this place.
We left the farm because of the men working in the mines here,
it had become so hard to get help on the farm and we were not
able to run the place. My husband died September 30, 1926 and
since then my son Claud and I have lived here alone till the
last year, I have a lady to stay with me as my children think
I should not be alone and then too I sometimes have the
rheumatiz.

REMARKS.

Mrs. James, has an extra good memory and enjoys her friends
a very devout Christian and expressed herself as trying to live
a Christian and enjoys her bible which was laying on the table
beside her.