

JAMES, TENSSEL

INTERVIEW

5804

LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Nannie Lee Burns

This report made on (date) May 17, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Tennessee, James

Address 3rd & C. NE. Miami, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Cherokee

2. Origin and history of legend or story - Memory

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

Supplement to story submitted. April 22, 1937.

Nannie Lee Burns  
Field Worker  
May 17, 1937.

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Interview with Tennessee James (Cherokee).  
3rd. & C. NE. Miami, Oklahoma.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NEUTER STRIP-DAYS.

In a recent interview with Mrs. James seeking to correct an impression that ~~she~~ gave me about the location of the "Neuter Strip" as she termed it, I received the wrong impression as to its location.

In the treaties with the Cherokees as to their northern boundary of their original grant in Indian Territory, there seems to have been a disagreement as north of the present north boundary line of Oklahoma there was a strip of various widths extending west from the Missouri Line north of the present Oklahoma line that was claimed by the Cherokees and finally made a part of Kansas and in this territory some twelve or fourteen families (Cherokees) settled, thinking that they were in the Cherokee Nation. Among these families was David M. Harlan, the grandfather of Mrs. James, with whom she made her home after her mother's death. So the move necessitated by the Civil War was one only farther up into the same state now Kansas. After the boundary was settled and it was decided that their home was in Kansas, her grandfather and the others who had made homes there, reserved 320 acres and continued

to live there but the younger ones of the family settled in the Cherokee Nation where they started homes for themselves.

I questioned Mrs. James very much in detail and I was able to gain but little in addition to what she had already given me. Her mother's sister, Lucinda Harlan, married Albert Willard and this Willard helped build houses for the Modocs when they were settled on the present Modoc Reservation.

The name of the first agent she remembers was Dorn. She tells that when money was sent here for the payments to the Indians, it was boxed in strong boxes, made similar to the boxes that axes were shipped in, and that she has seen these boxes just stacked up with the money in them on the porch at the agency and store.

The only additional members of the company that accompanied her father to California were her mother's brother, John Harlan, and her father's brother, Bert Lane. Both of these young men died on the trip and were buried along the route on the prairie.

She only remembers hearing them say that her father and his friends joined the party at a fort west of here

when the train of wagons came through and had to wait at the Fort till the main party came.

(This was probably in 1850 but when I see her son I will try to find out more about this place of meeting and the date of starting.)