

REED, LEISTER. INTERVIEW

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Indian-Pioneer History
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Interview with Leister Reed,
Creek Indian, Holdenville, Oklahoma

Leister Reed, a Creek, was born a mile north of Newoka,
in the Seminole Nation, in the year 1861.

Leister Reed's father and mother both came from
Alabama; on the way from Alabama the Creek Indians were
being put across the Mississippi by a ferry boat and
before all were put across the boat was wrecked in some
way, drowning several Indians. Minnie Mickey, an Indian
woman, was thrown in the water with a small baby but was
rescued before either drowned and she came on to the
Indian Territory with the others enduring many hardships.
After the ferry boat was wrecked there were many who had
not crossed the river. Mrs. Reed's parents were then
young and not married and they with their parents, were
yet on the other side of the river so they continued their
journey not crossing the river, at that point They crossed the Arkansas
River at Fort Smith. They settled near Fort Gibson but
after they were married they moved to the Seminole Nation.
At the outbreak of the Civil War her parents went south
to Red River returning to the Seminole Nation after the
close of the war; but when the boundaries of the Creek

Nation and the Seminole Nation were defined, they had to move back to the Creek Nation.

After the close of the Civil War several hundred Seminoles were brought from Florida and not long after they landed in the Seminole Nation there was an epidemic of smallpox which killed many of the Seminoles who had just come from Florida.

Mrs. Reed attended school at what was known as the Lilley school, John Ramsey was her teacher. This was a mixed school for Indian and negro children but it was financed by the United States Government.

Cody Johnson was a student here. He was several years older than Mrs. Reed and was very intelligent.

John Ramsey married one of ^{the} Lilley daughters at the time he was teaching. The Reverend Mr. Ramsey would preach to the Indians and would sing in the Creek Language; sometimes he would preach in English and an uncle of Mrs. Reed's, Donice McGuirt, would interpret in Creek.

When Mr. McGuirt died John Ramsey preached his funeral sermon in the Creek Language. The Reverend Mr. Ramsey and family would come to Mrs. Reed's house on Wednesday night and they would have religious services.

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Mrs. Reed's mother would sew and make clothes for the children who were attending the Indian school.