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BARNETT, CHILI

COMBINED TOWNS

6357

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## COMBINED TOWNS (TULWAS)

An interview with Chili Barnett, 52,  
Alabama town (tulwa) Weleetka, Okla.

Billie Byrd, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History  
6-22-37

My father, Zippie Barnett, and my mother, Elizabeth, were both of the Alabama town (tulwa). They lived in a settlement established by seven towns which were Hillubee, Tookparika, Ochai, Alabama, Kiledjis, Kechopataka and uasada. This was the first settlement made by these towns in the new Indian Territory but a division and a parting of the towns came about after the Civil War.

My father says that these towns had settled near McAlester, which is in Pittsburg County now, along one creek. The creek was named Zippie after my father. yassah, they did.

And he use to tell me that if any member of the towns had one wife it was alright. If he had two wives it was too bad for the man, but if he took three wives it was still worse. These towns

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abided under one law. If a man had two wives his ears were split, but if he had three wives the nose was split for punishment, my father said.

At the outbreak of the Civil War these settlements were ordered to move to Ft. Gibson. It was during the stay at Ft. Gibson that an epidemic of small pox broke out. "It was bad," my father said. He has said that my grandmother, Annie Moore, died of small pox. Some of the victims of the small pox recovered with not a single hair on their heads. My mother recovered in this condition--with no hair on her head.

It was during this epidemic that a whole tribe or town (tulwa) was wiped out as my father has said, but I don't recollect the name of the town.

At the close of the war these tribes went and settled near Pakantallahasse now McIntosh County, six miles southwest of the present Hanna, Oklahoma.

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It was from the temporary settlement established at Pakantallahasse that the towns as mentioned in this article began to go their own ways and make settlements other places.

Hillubee made their permanent settlement in McIntosh County, near Hanna, Oklahoma; Kialage in McIntosh County, southwest of Eufaula, while Masada-Alabama combined and made settlements in Okfuskee-Hughes county, between Wetumka and Weleetka; Tookparfka and Kechopadaga have no established busk grounds, now.

#### Small Pox

An interview with Minnie Deer Wind, age 32, Greenleaf town (tulwa) 5 miles south of Okemah, Oklahoma

There was an Indian boy that contracted the small pox while some of the Indians were stationed at Ft. Gibson during the Civil War, and I have forgotten his name now. It was there that quite a num-

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of people lost their lives during the small pox epidemic.

A small boy became an orphan when all of his relatives died from the small pox. He was left alone with no one to take care of him. His case was so bad that the officials in charge at Ft. Smith ordered that the small boy be killed. He was already placed in a box and was ready to be slain but the officials from cause asked if anyone wanted the little boy.

Although the small boy had such a bad case of small pox, my father, Hamsey Deer, took him. The small boy recovered from the disease and became a fine young man.

The last time that I heard of him was that he was living near Hanna, and I do not know if he is still living yet.