

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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337

E. F. Dodson
Field Worker

Interview: Jesse D. Thompson

THE STRIP PAYMENT AND THE BREAD PAYMENT

The Strip Payment for the people of Flint District of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, was made at Flint Court House in 1894. It took about ten days to complete the payment. Each day drew large crowds of Indians for the purpose of receiving their money, also many people who wished to collect bills owed to them by those who drew money and of course, many came to trade with the Indians and others to be with the big crowds.

The money was brought to Ft. Gibson on train, hauled to Tahlequah in wagons, then it was hauled to the Districts in wagons. The money was in large sacks and barrels. After the money arrived at the court house, it was not removed until it was paid out. The money was at all times closely guarded by forty armed men, one crew on duty through the day and one crew through the night. The sheriff, R. L. Taylor, kept forty armed guards and the treasurer, Zeke Starr, kept forty.

There was quite a lot of gambling around these payments and some drinking but, in the main, it was pretty orderly. There were several fights and one man killed at this payment.

In the year 1880, there was a severe drought in the Cherokee Nation. Crops were almost a failure, food was very scarce and many Indians were without funds to even buy bread so the government made a payment of about \$13.00 per capita to buy bread. This payment has since been known as "The Bread Payment."

THOMPSON, JOEL J.

INTERVIEW

338

THOMPSON, JOEL J. INTERVIEW.

7418

Supplement to interview with
Joel J. Thompson, Choctaw Indian
who lives on North G Street,
Hugo, Oklahoma.

When my father, Joseph P. Thompson was County Judge, Robert S. Frazier was High Sheriff. Noah Frazier was the Clerk, and James Brown Tims was a Representative in the Choctaw Council.

Edward Ward Tims' father, Venson Brown Tims, was the first postmaster at Doaksville and on his death Edward succeeded him. Betsy Tims attended school at Pine Ridge Academy. I believe though that it was after the Mission school had been suspended and that it was very likely neighborhood schools which she attended, schools held at the old Academy site. She always told us, as we passed that old Pine Ridge school site. "There is where I went to school."

We used to have witch doctors to doctor our family, before white doctors came to this country, and sometimes after we had had white doctors. I've seen them take tobacco and boil it in a pot, dig a hole that would fit the pot, and put the boiling pot in the hole, spread a sheet over the hole, and lay the patient over the boiling hot pot, with the "place that pained" directly over the steaming pot.