

JONES, THOMAS.

INTERVIEW

#7205

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Billie Byrd,
Field Worker,
June 13, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Thomas Jones, age 65,
Wewogufkee town (Tulwa), Carson, Oklahoma.

Organizations

Among the Indians of the early days there existed forms of organizations that were similar to the present day political parties. These parties were made up of members from the different tribal towns in the Muskogee-Creek Tribe.

It is known that there were organizations known as the Muskogee Party, Pins and the Middle Party.

The Muskogee Party was functioning for the good of both those early days and the future. This party was always in favor of any advancement that might be made or considered, but any of the advancements that were made had slow progress.

Any nomination that was made from the Muskogee Party for the Chief of the nation was taken very seriously by the party. The nominee and the nominator were thoroughly investigated and the records carefully

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considered to see if there were any understandings between the two if the nominee were successful in the race for Chief. These investigations were carried on during a special called meeting of the members of the Muskogee Party.

The Pin Party was an altogether different party as the members of the party were very malicious and full of envy and revengeful in their methods of carrying on the work. Any member of the Pin Party was known by the way in which the pin, the party symbol, was worn. The pins, two in number, were worn on the shirt in a horizontal position with the heads at the opposite ends to one another. This symbolized that if any member of the party was attacked physically or any other way, this party was very sharp or quick paying back deed for deed. If any member of the Pin Party was cruelly treated or killed, it did not take the Pin Party long to hunt down the wrongdoer and inflict the same treatment that he had inflicted.

The Middle Party members were of a friendly disposition in their acts but they were always opposed to a freedman or

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a descendant of a freedman becoming a Chief. Even when a nominee was a full-blood Indian from this organization they went through the method of a strict investigation and the members of this Pin Party elected a chief only if they liked the nominee.

It seems that all the different organizations were all the time opposed to one another as each had different ideas as to the management of the nation and its affairs. These different organizations in their hostile feelings were known to call one another buzzards or crows.

We all know that the Indians all lived under their separate tribal governments but a time eventually came when even that right was taken away and abolished. When the Dawes Commission was fully given the power to act and carry out the government orders, it was then that the older Indians rebelled and refused to have anything to do with the new law until they were forced to accept the acts. Of these incidents, Crazy Snake, or Chitto Harjo, took a part because he did not favor the allotment move that the

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government was taking. He called meetings where he spoke to the Indians about what would likely happen if these moves were accepted. The corner stones or markers of the surveyors helping the Dawes Commission with the dividing of the land into allotments were hastily destroyed by the several followers of Crazy Snake. He was finally forced to accept an allotment as more Indians were made to acknowledge these moves.

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July 6, 1937

Memories of a Marshal (W. F. Jones).

Interview with W. F. Jones-225 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Rosedale, Tulsa,
ex-Deputy United States Marshal, and peace
officer, 1893-1930.

Kid Glass 1905.

"Well, I have about covered my experiences with the old outlaws and scouts of the Indian Territory days. Now, there's the story of Kid Glass. About July 1905, old man Albert Furher had a ranch about five miles south of where Henrietta is today. Kid Glass, a negro cow-thief on the scout drove a hunch of stolen catt'e down to sell to old man Furher. Checotah, thirty-five miles away, was the closest point where money could be gotten, so Mr. Furher told him he would have to send to Checotah for the money. He told Kid to leave the cattle in the corral and come back the next day for the money. In the meantime Mr. Furher looked the cattle over and realized they were stolen so he sent for me, as I was at Checotah. The Kid returned the next day, and informed Furher that he suspicioned he had sent for officers. Words followed, and Kid shot and killed the old man, and wounded fatally his fifteen years old son. I arrived just as Kid was leaving on horseback, and he broke and ran. I took my Winchester, broke the nigger's

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leg, and wounded the horse. I took him into Futher for identification, but found him dead, and the son dying. I loaded the 'nigger' into the hack, took him to Checotah, then to Muskogee, There he had his leg amputated, got well, was tried and sent up for life, and later died in the pen".

SASAKWA LYNCHING (1898).

"During the time that Nelse Jones, no relation of mine, was Deputy United States Marshal under Leo E. Bennett there occurred the one black mark against his name. Two Seminole Indians, named McGeeska, ravished a white woman near Sasakwa. To my knowledge that is the only case of that kind among Indians, and Nelse arrested the Indians but instead of taking them to Muskogee, took them to his home. A mob formed, went to Jones' home, seized the Indians, took them to a place about fifteen miles south of Sasakwa, and burned them at the stake. This is only lynching of Indians that I know of in the history of the Indian Territory. After the lynching, the mob scattered, then the Federal Government stepped in. Bennett sent me to round up and arrest the members of the mob. First I arrested Nelse Jones and his son, who had aided his father, and took them to

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* Muskogee where they were jailed. Deputies and possemen joined me in searching for mob members. A number of them were found but the main leaders fled to other states, one to Mississippi, and one to Virginia. Finally they were found and brought back, and all were convicted and sent to the pen for from five to twenty-five years. Jones and his son each got twenty-five years. After the first bunch was brought in the United States Government offered \$300 per head reward, but only three or four could be found as all the rest had escaped to other states."

Bill Baber (1914).

"The last important arrest I made was that of Bill Baber, in Tulsa in 1914. At that time I was living near Checotah on a farm, and B. A. Enloe was United States Marshal at Muskogee. Bootleggers and gamblers were running Tulsa, and Enloe called me in to see what could be done to clean up Tulsa. I had done a lot of rounding up of that kind, in the days of the 'traveling court', so I said give me Bill Ellis, an officer at Bristow, Tom Hubbard of Bristow, and John Moran of Tulsa, also Jesse Walker, a constable of Tulsa, to serve search warrants and I believe we can clean out the ring leaders.

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Bill Baber, an old time resident of Tulsa had been in the grain elevator business. Later he became chief of police, and up to that time he had a good reputation. After his term was over he got in with a bootlegging and gambling group, he lined up with Billy Miles and Dud Moore. Feeling that Baber had whiskey hidden in his home, old man Davidson and Ed Plank, Deputy Marshals, and Ike Wilkinson, who is now a member of the raiding squad of the Tulsa Police Department, went to raid his home. They had search warrants which later were claimed by Baber to be illegal because they had been filled in by deputies. They went to the door and knocked, but Baber saw who they were and shot and killed Davidson. Plank and Wilkinson ran and escaped possible death.

I was in Pawhuska at the time I received word from Enloe to come at once to Muskogee to receive directions from him, but I heard of the killing while on the train. In the meantime Baber had barricaded himself in his home and proposed to resist arrest. I returned to Tulsa the next morning, went to the home of Baber and said, "Come on out Baber, this is Jones". He did so, and I arrested him without any resistance on his part. I took him to

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Muskogee, but did not talk to him about the case. The only thing he asked when we got off the train at Muskogee was, "Let's go the long way round to the jail". The short way was dark and he said, "I am afraid you are going to kill me." I let him go the long way round.

He was kept in jail and tried in district court and got five years as he claimed self-defense and there was some technicality about the search warrants. When he was released from prison he went back to peddling whiskey in Tulsa, and I arrested him a number of times. I remember one time while Jim Crutchfield was postmaster he bet me the best Stetson hat in Tulsa that I could not arrest Baber. I kept track of Baber and one day soon after I saw him and his wife get off the train. His suit case seemed rather heavy, so I walked up to him and said, "Bill, what you got there?" Bill said, "I've got some whiskey." I searched him and then said, "Open it up." There was the whiskey. I locked him up, and I got the hat and Baber got the jail sentence.

I began my training as a peace officer at the age of twenty-two in 1894 under my uncle, Davy Jones, who was a deputy United States Marshal at Checotah. I served under him until 1897. At twenty-five I received my appointment

as Deputy United States Marshal from Judge Morton S. Rutherford, and served until 1917. During the World War I had charge of the guards around the Mid-Continent Refinery. I was on the Tulsa Police Department from 1920 to 1932, as Sargeant of the raiding squad. I was bailiff in Judge Kennamer's court from 1932 to 1934. I am now a night watchman for Henry H. Greis, an oil man."