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Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: James A King

James A. King, who lives at 526 W. Choctaw, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, was born July 24, 1852 near Stilwell, Oklahoma. He is a Cherokee Indian.

Father - Richard Wyly King

Mother - Sallie King, nee Jordon

His father came to this country shortly after the Treaty of 1828. He came from Tennessee in about 1829. He settled in Flint District. He built the first two story house in that district. He brought a negro boy that he owned but sold him later.

FAIRFIELD MISSION, EARLY CUSTOMS AND BUILDINGS

My father settled one mile north of Fairfield Mission. There is where I was born. My father worked at the carpenter trade. He studied law. He stood good for and signed a note for White McClanand in Tennessee for \$30,000 and he had it to pay.

My father married my mother at Fairfield Mission. Her name was Sallie Jordon. My father is buried in the Tahlequah City Cemetery.

He farmed lots of land in this county. He built a large boat during the Civil War. It cost \$300.00. He built a steering gear in the center of the boat. He took his family to near Ft. Smith, Ark., I think it was near Boggey Depot where we landed and got off. I was 9 years old. We were running from the war after the Battle of Webbers Falls in 1863. After we got out to our landing, the man paid my father \$300.00 for building the boat. We went on south within 15 miles of Fort Smith Battle. We were held prisoners for several hours. They let us have our wagon and team back but they kept the horse that I was riding and they took all of our meat and provisions. We had one middling of meat left from where we started. Another boy and I went

back and got the middling. They had taken all of our good hams. We stopped 30 miles north of Bonham, Texas in the Choctaw Nation until in the early spring of 1866. We started for home. We got back to 8 miles south of Tahlequah. We made a crop that year. I went to work a little in the Cherokee Capitol in 1868 and in 1869 they began the brick work on the capitol. I went with Mr. Price from the capitol after it was finished in 1870 to the Murrell house and helped repair it.

The only schooling I had after the war was from a short time that I went to school in the Cherokee Capitol to Miss Florence Wilson. They would teach school while the Council was not in session. I then went to school in the old Masonic Hall to Frank Howard who was teaching. I went to school before the war at Fairfield Mission 6 days to a Miss Dean. Mr. Tarry was Superintendent.

Joe Abe Scales was the suprema judge and John Drew was attorney general. A man by the name of Faggam had stolen several log chains from a saw mill. He gave an old pony to Joe Abe Scales to clear him and he cleared him.

A ferry boat was operated just north of the Frisco bridge across the Illinois River south of my farm. Sue Ross owned the boat and Allen operated it. Sue Ross was Jim Ross' daughter, a niece of Chief John Ross. Gilbert Ross was the last man that operated the ferry.