

TONY, SUSAN FIELDS. . INTERVIEW #6751

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TONEY, SUSAN FIELDS

INTERVIEW

(Cherokee)

Texanna, Oklahoma.

Interview - July 12, 1937

Indian-Pioneer History

Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker.

Note- The following statement of Mrs. Susan Toney, who does not speak English, only the Cherokee language, was interpreted through her son, Calvin Toney.

I (Susan Toney) was born in a refuge camp on Red River in the Choctaw Nation January 6, 1862, where my parents, with other Cherokees, had fled to escape the dangerous conditions that existed in the Indian Territory brought on by the civil War.

My father was William Fields, fullblood Cherokee and my mother was Sallie (Gist) Fields, the daughter of Teasy Gist, the son of George Gist, or Sequoyah, Cherokee.

After the Civil War my parents moved back to their home place at the mouth of Dutch Creek on the Canadian River where my grandfather, Teasy Gist, died in 1869, when I was seven years of age.

I remember his burial in the old Cherokee burial

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ground on the hill beside the old Dutch Creek trail two and one-half miles southeast of Texana, or one and one-half mile west of the old home place. I have known of this old burial ground of the Cherokees since my earliest recollection and it was a very old burial ground at that time. It was abandoned about fifty years ago. There are only two white people buried in the place. They were two little white girls, children of a poor family that was living in the vicinity when their children died about 1811.

There were many of the early Cherokees buried at that place and it was always known as the Cherokee burial ground and had no other name. There never was any grave markers with inscriptions at any of the graves, as the Indians in the early days kept the burial place of their dead sacred in their memory and the location designated by land-marks.

My great-grandfather, George Gist, prominent in Cherokee history, was born in Tennessee about 1760, and at an advanced age, he came to the Indian

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Territory alone, leaving his family east of the Mississippi River. His short time in the Indian Territory was among the early Cherokee settlers.

Shortly after he came to the Territory he was joined by his son, Teesev Gist, my grandfather. Shortly thereafter, George Gist (Sequoyah), Teesev Gist, his son and another Cherokee by the name of Ellen Boles, for reasons unknown, left the Indian Territory for Old Mexico. George Gist died on that journey somewhere in Mexico about 1847. After the death of Sequoyah, Teesev Gist and Ellen Boles left Mexico and went to Texas where they remained for some time and through a transaction of some description acquired a tract of land from Mexico, then attempted to colonize it with Cherokees which involved them in a difficulty with the Texas government that lead to the killing of Boles.

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The story, as it was handed down through my mother, that when they were involved in the trouble with the Texas people over the treaty they had made with Mexico, Boles and Teesey Gist attempted to escape from Texas with the treaty and was being pursued by their enemies when Boles was shot. Boles took the treaty from where he had hid it in the fold of his saddle blanket, handed it to Teesey Gist and said; "They have got me, you take this and ride for your life for this is what they are after." Teesey Gist made good his escape with the treaty, though he never returned to Texas. I remember seeing the paper many times in later years as I grew up, I don't know what became of it.

Boles: Boles was shot in the back of the head.

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Susan Toney.

Teesey Gist Died 1869
Dutchers Creek

! Sallie Gist

William Fields

! Susan Fields Toney
born 1862

Teesey Gist

! Mary Gist Downing

! Joseph Edward Downing (youngest 1863)

! Nannie -- I. H. McClure

! Lucile -- Van Jergill

! Teesey Downing

! George Downing

! Mary

George Guess

! Teesey Gist Teesey Gist (Guess)

! Sallie Fields

! Susan Fields Toney

! Salvin H. Toney

! Lucy

! Ellis

! Susie