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CALVIN HARRISON TONEY, (Cherokee)
Texanna, Oklahoma,
Interview - July 12, 1937.
Indian-Pioneer History.
Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker.

I (Calvin H. Toney) was born August 9, 1882,
near the town of Texanna, Canadian District, Cherokee
Nation.

My father was Levi Toney, the son of Levi
Sequoyah Toney and Lucy (Fields) Toney, both Cherokeees.

My mother was Susan (Fields) Toney, Cherokee,
the daughter of William and Sallie Fields. The
father of my grandmother, Sallie Fields was Teegey
Gist, who was the son of George Gist, or Sequoyah.

I was reared and spent my past life in the im-
mediate vicinity of my birth place. I was educated
in the Cherokee national schools at Texanna and
Prairie Gap, later attending the Bacone Indian Col-
lege at Muskogee.

In 1906 I was married to Leona Davis, fullblood
Cherokee, the daughter of Jug Davis. Her mother died
before her recollection and she learned nothing of her.

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Five children have been born to my family, namely; Lucy, Ellis, Susie, Surphronia and Sanders.

I am at the time of this writing, living on my mother's original allotment where I have reared my family, two and one-half miles southeast of Texanna.

I have seen this country as the Indian Territory when we lived under our own government, also the next years of statehood, and I am compelled to say that the prosperous and happy days of the Cherokees when we lived under our own government ^{were} and permitted to exercise the rights and customs of our forefathers. The Indians experienced no trouble in the early days supporting themselves and families and our existence was not such a problem as it is at the present time. Before the country was settled up we had unlimited free range for our stock and the land belonged to the Indians in common; we could select a claim and improve it as we preferred. We had hog claims on the open range and when we

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needed meat he could go into the woods and kill a hog, or if we preferred wild game, there was plenty of deer, turkey and prairie chicken, all the things of a dream of the past, destroyed by the so-called civilization that has contaminated our streams that once flowed crystal clear and abounded with fish which are also gone.

Statehood, railroads and land companies have ruined this country forever as far as the Indian is concerned.

All Cherokees are proud of their heritage, they have been a proud and prosperous tribe of people, but like all other Indians, the oppression of the white race has cowed them and destroyed their happiness and ambitions by restricting their customs and traditions of the past. I can imagine the desire and ambition of my great-grandfather, Sequoyah, when he left the Indian Territory in his declining years looking to the west, seeking

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a new country, a country where he would not be oppressed by the onward march of the Saxon race; a country where he could live according to the traditions of his people which is the rightful heritage of the fullblood. A place of hope, the habitat of the red man, I am confident, was his appeal to the Great Spirit. So long as the Mother of Life diffuses her light over the hills of progress undimmed will be the light of Sequoyah, Light-bearer to The Fires of his race.

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July 20, 1937.

Note- Following is supplementary biographical information furnished by Calvin H. Toney in connection with data furnished in interview under date of July 12, 1937.

In 1906 I was married to Leona Davis, full-blood Cherokee, the Daughter of Jug and Nancy (Starr) Davis. Nancy Starr was the daughter of the original Tom Starr.

The wife of Tagsey Gist was Tooker Boles, daughter of Ellen Boles and sister of Nancy Boles who was the the wife of J. Porum Davis.