

TONEY, CALVIN HARRISON

INTERVIEW

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CALVIN HARRISON TONEY, Cherokee,
Texanna, Oklahoma.
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Indian-Pioneer History.
Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker.

The following, including genealogy of descent from Sequoyah, is compiled from authentic information and through the cooperation of Calvin Toney and his mother, Susan (Fields) Toney, she being the granddaughter of Teasey Guess, the son of Sequoyah.

Sequoyah was born about 1770, in the old Cherokee country, within one of the present states of Tennessee, Georgia or Alabama; the exact location is unknown.

His father was a German peddler by the name of Gist, who, like many wandering traders of those days, came among the Indians to ply his trade, and during his stay among the Cherokees he chose a wife from among the Indians. He, being an obscure wanderer, a part of the adventurous flotsam of the border of civilization, eventually deserted his wife.

Sequoyah was born soon after his father had deserted his mother, and he grew to manhood among the Cherokees and as his mother spoke only the Cherokee language, Sequoyah grew up without learn-

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ing the English language. His knowledge of English was gained in later years of his life. Sequoyah, from his father's name, Gist, acquired the name, George Guess.

During his boyhood he was afflicted with what is commonly called "white swelling" in a knee joint which caused a lameness that remained with him the remainder of his life. Sequoyah was about five feet and nine inches in height, slender in form, a light sallow complexion and grey eyes. In his dress he clung to the customs of his people, wearing a turban, hunting shirt, leggings and moccasins. The turban was a strip of cloth or a small shawl twisted about his head. The hunting shirt was a loose sack coat made of buck skin or home spun woolen cloth that was made by the Cherokee women. The moccasins were made from tanned buckskin.

The first vocation to which he adapted himself in early life was that of a blacksmith, later, that of a silversmith.

Sequoyah's first wife was Sallie of the Bird

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clan and his second wife was U-ti-yu of the Savannah
clan.

His four children by his first wife were:

Teesey Guess, who married U-ti-yu and Rebecca Bowl. He was born in 1789 and died September 17th, 1867. His second wife, Rebecca Bowl was the daughter of Bowl, who was the leader of the band of Cherokees that emigrated from Mussel Shoals, on Tennessee River, to the St. Francis River country (now southeast Missouri) in 1794; moved to Petit Jean Creek on the south side of the Arkansas River in the winter of 1811-1812, finally removed to Texas in 1822 and became the leader of the Texas Cherokees. While with Teesey Guess, resisting expulsion from Texas, Bowl was killed July 16th, 1839.

Sequoyah's second child by Sallie was George Guess, who lived to be grown but died without descent. Richard or Chusaleta, the fourth child and third son, also lived to be grown and died without descent.

Sequoyah's third child by Sallie was his daughter Polly, who married Flying and Thomas Brewer.

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She only had one child, Annie, who married Joseph Griffin and was the mother of Ti-du-gi-yo-sti.

Sequoyah had three children by his second wife, U-ti-yu, the eldest of whom was A-yo-gu Guess, who married George Starr and they were the parents of one son, Joseph Starr, who was born December 25th, 1873, and died without issue in 1899.

Sequoyah's second child by U-ti-yu was Co-loo-tsa, a daughter, who left no descent.

Sequoyah's third child by his second wife was Gu-u-ne-ki, who married Tsu-du-li-tee-hee or Sixkiller and had one daughter, Araminta Sixkiller.

Sequoyah's eldest son, Teesey, had three children by his first wife and three by his second wife. His oldest child by his first wife, U-ti-yu, was George Guess, who married a Girty and they were the parents of two children, the elder of whom was Mary Guess, who married George Mitchell and Andrew Russell, and by the latter was the mother of one child only, George W. Russell,

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who was born on July 18th, 1880, and married Minnie Holston.

Teesey Guess's second and third children by his first wife were respectively Richard and Joseph Guess, both of whom lived to be grown but died without issue.

Teesey Guess's children by Rebecca, his second wife, were first, Sallie, who married William Fields, whose Cherokee name was Tu-noo-ie. They had one daughter, Susan Fields, who married Levi Toney and they were the parents of, consecutively: Calvin Harrison Toney, Cicero Davis Toney, Margaret Toney and the twins, Catherine and Sallie Toney.

Teesey Guess's second child by Rebecca was a son, Joseph Guess, who lived to be grown but died without issue.

Teesey Guess's third child by Rebecca was Catherine Guess. She was born in 1851 and married on March 11th, 1867, Joseph Downing. They were the parents of six children as follows:

Nannie Downing, born February 1st, 1878.

o file Downing, born July 28th 1881

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Joseph Edwar Downing, born March 22, 1883.

Teeseey Downing, born December 16, 1887.

George Downing, born _____

Maud Downing, born February 13, 1890

At the time of this writing, Susan (Fields) Toney, her son, Calvin Harrison Toney and his wife, who was Leona Davis, the daughter of Jug Davis, whom he married in 1906 and their five children, Lucy, Ellis, Susie, Surphronia and Sanders are all living on the original allotment of Susan (Fields) Toney, two and one half miles southeast of Texanna.

Joseph Edward Downing is living at Texanna.