

INDEX CARDS:

Freedmen
Slave Conditions
Cherokee Nation
Tahlequah

LEE WELDON, (Cherokee)
907 South 3rd. Street,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.
Interview - August 16, 1937.
Indian-Pioneer History
Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker.

I (Lee Weldon) was born in Alabama in 1840.

My father and mother were Bob and Nannie Roberts, slaves, owned by a plantation operator and slave holder by the name of Harry Edden. I was reared in slavery, and like all other slaves, never had a chance for any education, nothing but work. I was about twenty-three years of age when I was set free.

When I was a boy, my master moved his family and all his slaves from Alabama to Texas, as many other slave owners did, and started a plantation near Red River, and we remained there until emancipation.

My master was not a bad man and treated his slaves better than the average slave owner, but he would punish the slaves when they were disobedient. I have seen slaves attempt to escape from the plantation and the dogs would be put on their trail and they would be trailed down like they were a wild animal, brought back and punished by whipping them with a bull whip. I have seen many of them whipped

when I was a boy and I never tried to escape. My mother, being a kind and obedient half Cherokee woman, always taught me it was best to be obedient, which I was and I never was punished but was treated very kindly.

After I was made free I married Ellen Neals. Twelve children were born to us, two of whom, Lillie Belle and Joseph Weldon, are now living. Lillie Belle married Nathaniel Campbell and to them was born one child, Blanch Campbell, who married McKinley Oliver of Muskogee.

I lived in Texas until 1894 when I moved with my family to the Indian Territory and settled near Tahlequah where I lived for awhile and engaged in farming. Moving from that vicinity, I filed on a claim near the little town of Greenwood and lived there until the death of my wife in 1903.

~~After the death~~ of my wife, my children were placed in homes of relatives and others, and I returned to Texas for some time, then came back to the Indian Territory. After my wife died I could never make another home. I never found another who could take her place so never married again.

In my declining years I am blessed with the companionship and kindly care of my only daughter and my granddaughter, Blanch Campbell.