

GREENE, HAZEL B.

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Hazel B. Greene,  
Journalist,  
March 15, 1938.

Hugo, Oklahoma.  
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Hon. Grant Foreman, Director,  
Indian - Pioneer History,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Dear Dr. Foreman:

Yesterday I had a chance to go to Antlers at no expense to me, so I took advantage of the opportunity to see Mrs. Annie Taaffe-Arnote, and learn what relationship to her, if any, was Betsy Pitchlynn, whose grave I saw at Goodland Academy Cemetery. Then, too, I wanted to learn the whereabouts of Harrison Frazier, who is a near, if not quite, full-blood Choctaw, and really quite intelligent. I have not seen him in thirty or more years, but I feel that he can give me a lot of interesting stories of the customs, tribal histories and social organizations, and maybe some folklore, legends, etc.

I stopped at the office of the Pushmataha County Sheriff, who is a pioneer friend of mine, and he told me

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that Harrison Frazier lives at Cloudy, Oklahoma, and that he will take me out there, possibly next Monday or Tuesday. I am writing to Harrison to prepare him for the visit and I shall send him some of the forms and information as to the general aims of this project, so he will be thinking it over and possibly have, at least, his mind prepared for the visit.

Another trip I am planning to make is to Spear, just about nine miles north of Hugo. I intended to go tomorrow but a big rain came last night and the roads are terrible out there so I'd hate to take a borrowed car out and bog it down in the mud. At Spear ~~there~~ are said to be two old native negroes well past the century mark, also an old missionary to the Indians whose name is T. C. Ely.

The sheriff, John Helms took me over across to the east side of town to the home of Mrs. Paul Harris, where I visited an hour or more. I could do little else but visit under the circumstances for she had just attended the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Ervin Oakes at Soper, widow of Thomas E. Oakes, brother to Lem W, Joel E, and S. L.

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Oakes. Mrs. Oakes was the last of the daughters of Calvin and Sally Gibson Ervin.

One of the Ervin girls was Delilah who was many times married, according to Major V. M. Locke, Jr. She first married Hamp Willis, who was killed by Colonel Sim Folsom. Then she married a Clark who just went off and next Stallard who was killed. Her fourth husband was Jim Christian, who was killed by some renters. (I told that story in the Ben Norwood story, which was the first one I sent in). Next Delilah married a Bill Luther, who was killed in the depot at Goodland by the Everidges and Henry Willis. She might have had another husband, but the rumor varies as to that one, but I know that her last husband was a white man named Jeff Davis, and I also know that Davis was killed by a renter on his place, whom he was trying to intimidate and run off the place.

The next Ervin sister was Emma, or Emily, who was four times married. Her first husband was a brother to Hamp Willis; her next was Ford who killed Bob Peeler and who died from the wound Peeler gave him. Her third husband was Carpenter, whom George Pritchard was indicted

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for killing and the last was a Christian whom she married up about McAlester.

Another Ervin sister was Susie, who married Joel Everidge, and they were the parents of Mrs. Sue Harris at Antlers and Mrs. Ed Wilson at Stillwater, who was the wife of Edward H. Wilson, of tribal importance among the Choctaws, son of John Wilson of Clear Creek. Susie Ervin Everidge was the mother of Thomas William Everidge, who is now on the ranch of Major Locke away up about Finley, and whom you wrote me to interview but I have had no chance. He is well past sixty years old and the oldest Everidge left.

The next daughter of the Ervins was Nancy, who married a Hampton. I'll have to learn more of her; they are all gone now. Margaret Oakes was the very last daughter. Mrs. Harris said that a daughter of Delilah, was there at the funeral. She is Mrs. Jimmie Stallard Kirby of Jericho, Texas.

Then the children of Emily Ervin Willis Ford and Carpenter Christian, were there, one of whom is a Mr.

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Clarence Willis, who works in a bank in McAlester and is said to have in his possession a diary which was kept by Calvin Ervin when he came to this Indian country with the Indians along about 1839 or 1840. Mrs. Margaret Oakes told me that Mr. Willis has this diary and I wanted to see Mr. Willis, but felt like that a funeral was neither the time nor the place to take to seek these old records. Perhaps your worker in McAlester can get them. If they cannot I might be able to go up there and get that old diary, or at least copy it, if a little expense money were provided, because I could go with a neighbor who goes frequently. That diary is supposed to relate his experiences on the road with a bunch of the Choctaws as they were brought from Mississippi. Then again, there is a chance that it is quite worthless. However, one has to take that chance every time they start out to interview a pioneer.

Thomas William Everidge is the oldest one of the Everidges living. That is, an Everidge by blood. Some day I will get to see him.