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Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149
Hazel B. Greene, Field worker,
Hugo, Oklahoma, Choctaw County.
May 11, 1937.

THE EVERIDGES.

Yesterday I went out to the home of Edward M. Everidge by section lines, it is .8 miles from Hugo. I found there a perfect mine of information in that old roll top desk, I'm going to learn the history of that old desk if it has one. There are stacks of old letters, receipts, legal documents, etc., - all beautifully written - pertaining to the Supreme Court of the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, of which Joel M. Everidge, who was born in 1828 was Judge. Also books of tribal laws. A lot of history of the Choctaw Nation which has never been printed because it was private correspondence yet Mr. Everidge will permit any responsible person to inspect or copy any or all of it.

Among them I find an application for habeas corpus, for the person of one Luck Bench, charged with the supposed crime of having murdered one Willie Jones, a Choctaw Indian. (The said Willie Jones was a son of Chief Wilson Jones, of which I wrote in the sketch about Wilson Jones).

This petition is signed by Frank Lee, United States Commissioner for the Eastern District of Texas, and is dated August 15, 1890. The Honorable Frank Lee who afterwards became United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

A letter addressed to J. . Everidge, Longview, Ind. Ter., under date of September 12, 1888, tells me that there was a Post Office by that name just three miles east of what is now Hugo, Oklahoma, and I was informed that George . . Oakes was the Postmaster.

I learned that Thomas William Everidge, an Irishman, was born in Kentucky, went to Holmes County, Mississippi, and there married Eve Brashears, a fullblood Choctaw Indian, and was ostracized by his family for marrying an Indian. They started on "The Trail of Tears" in 1832 or 1833 with their three children. One, a small boy, died enroute. No record is known of where he died or where buried. Two more were born in the Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation, at the old Everidge home place, about 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of what is now Hugo, Oklahoma. He and wife settled this place in 1833. The house is built of immense hand hewn logs, chinked and daubed with

sticks and clay and lime. The chimneys at either end of this double log house are made of native stone. It was originally a two story house with low ceilings. In late years they raised the ceilings, abandoned the upstairs to old relics and dust, closed the stairway, and do not use it at all. The hall is almost as large as the rooms on either side. It has been the custom, since the first death there, in the Everidge family to hold the funerals in that large hall, and almost every one by the Everidge name are buried right there at the old home place, about one hundred yards from the house in a well cared for cemetery or burial ground. There are approximately one hundred fifty graves in it and only about fifty tombstones. One corner was reserved for the slaves to be buried in. Sometimes, in digging a new grave, they accidentally dig into another because they have lost trace of some of them. Old Thomas William, himself and wife, Eve, lie in unmarked graves. He was buried Nov. 20, 1856. She lived 14 years longer. He died Nov. 19, 1856. Two of the children are also sleeping in unmarked graves. The other two lived to be grown and have families of their own. They were Joel Everidge, a half breed Choctaw Indian, born August 29, 1828,

in Mississippi. Died May 5, 1901, at the old home place in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Hugo, Oklahoma.

He married Sophia Folsom, 3/4 Choctaw Indian, who was probably born in Mississippi. She died Oct. 10, 1894, at the age of 62 years.

The other child of Thomas William Everidge and Eve was Harriett H. Everidge. She was born in Mississippi and married in Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, to Thomas W. Oakes, a white man, carpenter, from North Carolina. She lived to be nearly 84 years old. She and husband are buried in the old Oakes burial ground at the place they settled at Goodwater when they married. She was the mother of Lem W., Tom, Joel E. (Dock), George, and perhaps others. I will get their history later.

The children of Joel W. and Sophia Everidge were, as follows:

Willie; born in 1848; never married, died at 20 yrs. of age.
Edward W. born in 1850; died Feb. 6, 1916.
Joel W. born, June 3, 1855; died July 20, 1911.
Robert Turner, born November 19, 1856. Died April 6, 1921.
(He was born the day his grandfather, Thos. W., died).
Martin Van Buren (Dock), born 1860. Died Jan 14, 1923.
Abella, born 1863, now 74 yrs. old, living.
Lizzie, born 1866, living at Ardmore, Oklahoma.
Laura, born about 1869. Died about 1933.

Edward M. Everidge, (born, 1850), first wife, full blood Choctaw Indian, named Sinie Yakinubbi, no children. She is now Mrs. Kimmie Davenport, Darwin, Oklahoma. (Not certain of maiden name,).

Next wife, Lulu Williams, white woman, living.

Dora, oldest child died young.

Joel .. born about 1902, living.

Jackson, next now dead.

Twins, Edgar and Edwin, died young, buried in Everidge cemetery.

Jolly, younger, dead.

Inez Everidge, about 22 yrs. old lives at Goodland, Okla.

Children of Joel .. Everidge (Born, 1853), married to Susan Ervin, 1/2 breed Choctaw Indian, born in Choctaw Nation, now dead.

Thomas Willie, still living at the old Everidge home place.

(The E. W. Everidge home place), about 14 miles SE of

Hugo. He has been married more than once, has three children, but not by his last wife, who died at Eagletown, about twenty years ago. The first one, Mrs. Minnie Everidge lives in Oklahoma City with her children.

Next was Emma, whose husband, Edward H. Wilson, ^{was} one of the "Wilson boys" who acquired much fame, politically, in the Choctaw Nation. He was Superintendent of Wheelock Academy in what is now McCurtain County. He was National Secretary till Congress abolished that office in 1912. (National Secretary to the Choctaw Nation). He died on December 13, 1921, at Fort Towson, Oklahoma; buried at Oaksville, 1 mile north of Ft. Towson, Oklahoma. Mrs. Wilson lives at Stillwater, their children are, Edward, Alma, Bill, Roy, Mamie, Susie, James and Elbur. I believe that is all of them.

Doug. Everidge married Label Oakes, I believe she was all white. She was a daughter of "Old Uncle Bill Oakes" who died a couple of years ago at Grant. They have one daughter, Blanche. Doug. died in 1918.

Next was Sue, now widowed, Mrs. Paul Harris of Antlers.

Robert died at about 15 yrs. of age.

May, now a Mrs. Edwin, whereabouts unknown.

Governor Jones Everidge, now in New Mexico.

Governor Jones Everidge said that when they were being enrolled, he had not yet been named. Governor Wilson Jones was there and suggested that they name the baby

for him. which was done.

Children of Joel W. Everidge and second wife,
Betty Wilson Everidge, now living at Grant, about 1/4
Choctaw Indian. Their children are:
Palo, now Mrs. Dr. Nelliam, of Garvin and Idabel,
Lommie, now Mrs. Bob Leard, Gertrude Everidge Noel, and
Mrs. Robbie Lugwell, all three now of San Angelo, Texas.

Children of Robert Turner Everidge and wife,
Lula Hulen, Torrence, a white woman. (She had two
children by her first husband, Mr. Torrence, Henry and
Will).

Edward W. Everidge, born March 30, 1891, married,
Pearl May Cooper, a white woman. They have 4 children
living and 4 dead. Those living are Henry, Claudia
Williams, and two whose names I forget but will get them
if desired.

Clara Everidge Greene, born 1893, Barstow Texas.

Thomas Hulen Everidge, born 1895, died 1902.

David Monroe Hayley Everidge, 1897, Barstow Texas, there now.

Effie Everidge Martin, born 1899, living at Hugo, Okla.

Laura Murphy, born 1901, now living at Lawton, Okla.

Sophia Stevenson, born, 1903, lives at Frogville, Okla.

Mintie, died at 16 months.

Clarence died at six months.

Daisy E. Thompson, 1909. Hugo, Oklahoma.

Martin Van Buren (Dock) Everidge married Mintie Boarick, white. Their children:

Sophie, died young.

Willie, now widowed, was Mrs. Jess Hutchins, now in Arizona with an adopted daughter, Mrs. Jewel Lawcett, who had to go West because she was tubercular, Willie never had children of her own but has raised several orphans.

Floyd Wesley Everidge,akersfield, California.

David "rockett" Everidge, Savanna, Oklahoma.

Children of Arabella Everidge, married to Robert M. Ralston, a white man, who died in 1926, age 75 years, buried at the old Everidge burial ground, even though he died in Fort Nowson. They happened to be living in the house across the street from this writer at the time of his death.

They had six children:

Martin Van Buren Ralston, now about 50 years old, living about ten miles SW of Fort Nowson.

Nora Ralston, now Hammonds, lives in California.

Annie Ralston, now Mrs. Earl Rockoven, whose husband is a deputy county clerk in Oklahoma City.

Robert Ralston, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Johnny Ralston, deceased.

Mrs. Sophia Ralston Kilgore, Dallas, Texas.

Lizzie, daughter of Joel E. Everidge, (who was born 1828) her children. She married Columbus E. Ervin and lives in Ardmore. Ervin is 1/2 Choctaw Indian. They have a number of children.

Laura, the baby daughter of Joel Everidge, who was born 1828. She married J. Nations, a white man. She had no children of her own, but mothered lots of orphans. She died about 1933. Her husband, J. Nations, has remarried, and has an eight months old baby.

Edward M. Everidge, Hugo, Oklahoma, has a collection, which he keeps in a roll top desk. It is in a remarkable state of preservation.

He has a compilation of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, containing older laws. This was compiled by, Alex T. Durant, Davis Homer, and Ben Watkins. He also has a copy of the Choctaw laws enacted from 1807 to 1876, written in Choctaw language. Also a lot of the correspondence of J. W. Everidge, Supreme Judge for 3d Judicial District, Choctaw Nation, the Joel E. Everidge who was born in 1828. One letter asking him to honor petition for one J. C. Hampton to practice law in any of the courts of the Nation.

Another letter to Joel E. Everidge, from T. J. Bond, contains the news in general from Loggy Depot, and is dated June 1st, 1872, news that the railroad bridge is being built acrossuddy Loggy, near James Davis' and getting out ties between there and the Caddo Hills.

-EXACT COPY-

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Boggy Depot, T. N.

June 1st 1872

Joel W. Everidge Esp.

Dear Sir

Your favor came to hand in due time, with com-- returned. I have no news of any special interest to relate, only that Boggy river is still running down Stream notwithstanding the great intestine commotions, & volcanic explosions in and about the Armstrong, occasioned by the late sitting of the Legislative & Judicial bodies-- I am happy to know that you survived and is still kicking, while so many fell and were found mangled among the rubbish of the Temple.

The Court of Claims has not commenced yet, during these heavy Spring rains the whole machinery was left out in the weather, consequently became very rusty, & the wheels would not turn without more grease. Whether that will be applied, I know not-- Times are very quiet-- No excitement in this part of the country--

I have information from Washington-- the 250,000, over which there has been so much talk here of late, stands where it did one year ago. The Secretary of the Treasury has refused to pay the ~~xxxxx~~ interest over to those fellows in Washington. So I presume the matter will rest quiet until further action of the Choctaw Council--which I suppose will engage the minds of the members in Oct- next.

The Rail Road is advancing very rapidly through the country, by October, I presume that it will be close on to the Cado Hills. They are building the rail road bridge across Muddy Boggy near Jas Davis^s and getting out ties between there and the Cado Hills.

Your friend

T. J. Bond.

Thomas William Everidge was born in Mississippi. The date of his birth cannot be found right now. It may be found later. Came to the Choctaw Nation, in the Indian Territory, in 1833. He seemed to be a prosperous business man. One old document shows him to be the Administrator of the estate of one, Robert Turner Brashears, from 1831 to 1835, the 5th day of Nov. 1838 and signed by N. E. Revis. P.C. It seems that he made several business trips back and forth to Mississippi over a period of years from 1833 to 1838.

Copy of Receipt that is one hundred five years old today.

"Rec'd of Thos Everidge fifty dollars to be accounted for on
future settlement,
24th April. signed, R. A. Patrick.
1832-

ANOTHER.

"Rec'd of Thomas Everidge the sum of three hundred dollars,
which is payment in full for a negro woman named Patty.
rec'd this 27th August, 1828

his
James X McKinney.
mark

itness,
J. F. Lawson.

Another says,
Rec'd of Thomas Everidge twenty seven head of stock cattle.
July 14th, 1832.

signed- John T. Edmondson.

Thomas William Everidge was the father of two children.
Joel T. Everidge, and Mrs. Harriet Oakes. (Mother of Lem Oakes)
-le

Joel T. Everidge, born 1828

His children.

Willie Everidge, born about 1848, died when he was twenty yrs. old.
Ed M. Everidge, born 1850, died 1916.
Joel T. Everidge, born 1853.
Robert Turner Everidge, born 1856, Nov. 19, died April 6, 1921.
Dock, (Martin Van Buren Everidge, born, 1860.
Ababella, Everidge, Ralston, born 1863, living.
Lizzie Ervin, Ardmore. Married C. C. Ervin (1/2 Choctaw)
Laura, married B. Nation (white man) Now dead.

In the yard of the old Thomas William Everidge home, stands an immense elm tree. The branches spread fifty feet or more from side to side. Thomas Millie Everidge, who must be 60 or more years old, said he could not remember when it was not a BIG tree. Inside the house, there was no paper or other kind of covering on the walls, just the bare post oak logs, they are about 15 inches in diameter. Occasionally there is an old-fashioned portrait hanging on the wall, a picture of one of the family. The mantels above each fire place are home made, built when the house was built, in 1833. The mantels aren't just above the fireplaces, they extend down the sides. Over the doors are gun racks. There was an old fashioned, muzzle loading, double barrel shot gun, also an old time 22 rifle that was used in 1837. In one room was an organ that the oldest Everidges think of as being old, also a kind of a book case, that reaches to the ceiling. It was made in 1837, by old Thomas William Everidge. The Joel . . . Everidge who was Supreme Court Judge, used it for a filing case. He built himself a table 3x3 ft square, upon which he always wrote his Supreme Court decisions. The table has two drawers, one below the other. The lower part of the book case is composed of drawers, the upper part of shelves.

Here, I want to mention that the 22 rifle was called "old Friday." Old man Joel . . . Everidge called it his faithful companion.

But the funniest thing of all was a telephone on those low walls, and a radio upon that crude home-made table. The clock upon the mantle was brought from Mississippi in 1833.

Among the old papers in Ed Everidge's desk, I found a letter from Oak Lodge, dated August 1st, 1872. I'm going to find out where Oak Lodge was or is. It was the P. O. at New Hope Seminary for girls in Le Flore County.

A letter written by a lawyer to Judge Everidge, while the messenger waits to take it a distance of fifty odd miles, from Pennington N. H. to 14 1/2 miles S. E. of Hugo, Oklahoma pleading with the Judge for one more chance for a trial for the life of a client who had evidently been sentenced to death.

One from Lehigh tells of the coal miners being on a strike, hard times, drouth and crops looking bad. dated July 6, 1894.

Some decisions of the Supreme Court.

Another interesting item was in the Journal of the Choctaw National Council, recording the transfer of the Pushkaloosa Academy building to Henry Willis, in

return for services rendered while he was acting as Superintendent and custodian of that same academy.

Henry Willis was part Indian, white and negro, and was with the Everidge boys when they surrounded the depot at Goodland and shot Sam Luther to death.

Henry Willis was named in the indictment, which I saw and can copy, if desired. I believe Muskaloosa Academy was located near Muskahoma, in the Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation.

So many of those letters seem important to posterity. Or so they seem to this writer.

One letter from Green Curtin when he was National Secretary Choctaw Nation.

Copy of instrument dating back to 1831.

The account of Thomas Everidge. Administrator of the estate of Robert Turner Brashears, late of Mississippi, deceased.-----

The time, from the beginning of the administration of the estate extended from 1831 to 1837. It is very hard to read.

The amount of money involved seems to be \$2,243.14.

On the back side is the following.

State of Mississippi

Holmes County

I, Nathaniel E. Revis. Judge of

probates of said County, certify that after examination

I find the within settlement to be just and true and have, this day ordered the same for record.

Given under my hand and seal this

5th. day of November, 1838.

N. E. Revis. Seal.

~~INDIAN HISTORY PROJECT S-149~~

~~HAZEL B. GREENE, FIELD OFFICER, HUGO, OKLAHOMA.~~

~~MAY 12, 1937.~~

COPY OF LETTER WRITTEN TO JOEL W. EVERIDGE.

(Notice the spelling of "Kimichi" I have also seen it spelled, "Iamichi.")

"Alamata, Tex. Nov 1st, 18
1860

Mr. Joel W. Everidge.

Dear Sir

I enclose you a note for \$55.00 on Mr. William McCoy, which you will please collect for me, first opportunity, as I will not have an opportunity of seeing him. No news of interest.

Yours truly & c

J. D. Northam & Co.

An old account against Thomas Everidge, in account with John Henry, and dated 1834. I see, that among other things, Mrs. Everidge was charged with 5 lbs sugar..1.00
6 yds of calico .13.00
4 yds Red Flannel. 2.00 and got credit for 2.50 for making 5 prs of drawers at 50 cents per pair.
March 6th. 1834.

Among the many interesting papers etc. owned by Edward L. Everidge, is an indictment charging Joe Everidge, Turner Everidge, Dock Everidge and a negro, named Henry Willis with the murder of m. Luther, signed by E. M. Alexander, Foreman of the Grand Jury, and J. E. McComb, U. S. Attorney. Dated Nov. 15. 1889 Ed Everidge stated that the Everidge boys killed in defense of their father, whose life Luther was said to have threatened. He also said they were tried and cleared by a jury.

FAMILY OF EVERIDGE.

Joel W. Everidge, who was born in 1853, was the father of:

Mrs. Sue Harris, (Mrs. Paul Harris of Antlers, now of Okla. City

Will Everidge, who lives 10 miles S. E. of Hugo.

Mrs. Emma (Ed) Wilson, of Stillwater, Okla.

Governor Jones Everidge, of Okla. City.

Mrs. Dr. Kelliam of Garvin, Okla.

Mrs. Rommie Leard, and Gertrude Everidge, & Robbie Cugwell.

All of El Paso, Texas & Doug Everidge who died in 1918.

Ed L. Everidge born 1850

Has a daughter and son at Goodland. Inez & Joel, the 3rd

Robert Turner Everidge, who was born 1856, and died in 1921 was the father of,

Edward ... Everidge, Hugo, Okla.

Mayley Everidge, Marstow, Texas and five daughters.

Dock (Martin Van Buren Everidge was the father.

(Dock was born 1860, died?) Mrs. Jess Hutchins, Floyd Wesley Everidge, and David Crocket, both of Eakersfield, Calif.

Arabella Everidge, Ralston. now 74 yrs. old, lives South of Ft. Towson, and has a host of children & grand children. One of them is named "Judge" Ralston. Ft. Towson.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Choctaw Nation.

Jeff Gardner,
Principal Chief.

Osage Town Ind. Ter. May 21 1895

Hon J. . . Everidge,
Goodland, I. T.

Dear Sir:-

I herewith
enclose for your perusal copies of three letters
from the Hon. President, Smith & Dawes, concerning
the Dawes Commission.

Yours truly,

Jeff Gardner

P. O. O. N.

COPY

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Executive Mansion
Washington.

May 4, 1895.

Hon. Hoke Smith,
Sec. of the Interior.

My Dear Sir:-

As the Commissioners to negotiate and treat with the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians are about to resume their labors, my interest in the subject they have in charge, induces me to write you a few words concerning their work.

As I said to the Commissioners when they were first appointed, I am especially desirous that there shall be no reason, at all time to come, to charge the Commission with any unfair dealing with the Indians, and that whatever the results of their efforts may be, the Indians will not be led into any action which they do not thoroughly understand or which is not clearly for their benefit.

At the same time I still believe as I always have believed, that the best interests of the Indians will be found in American citizenship, with all the rights and privileges which belong to that condition.

The approach to this relation should be carefully made, and at every step the good and welfare of the Indians should constantly be kept in view, so that when the end is reached, citizenship may be to them a real advantage instead of an empty name.

I hope the Commission will inspire such confidence in these with whom they have to deal, that they will be listened to and that the Indians will see the wisdom and advantage in moving in the direction I have indicated.

If they are unwilling to go immediately so far as we may think desirable, whatever steps are taken should be such as point out the way and the results of which will encourage these people in further progress.

A slow movement of that kind fully understood and approved by the Indians, is infinitely better than swifter results gained by broken pledges and false promises.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Grover Cleveland.

(Note by field worker).

The original of this letter is very likely in the possession of Mrs. E. J. Gardner, widow of the late E. J. Gardner, at Valliant. I understand that she has a good many manuscripts which will be very valuable to posterity of the Choctaw Nation/.

EXACT COPY

p. 21

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Department of the Interior,
Washington.

May 6. 1895

Hon Henry L. Dawes,
Chairman, Five Civilized Tribe Commission,

Muscogee, I. T.

My dear Sir:-

Enclosed I hand you a copy of a letter from the President, in which he discusses the work of the Commission of which you are the Chairman. I hope it may aid you to convince the Indians that this work has really their own advantage in view.

The impossibility of permanently continuing the present form of government of the Five Civilized Tribes, must be apparent to those who consider the great difficulty already experienced, even by an administration favorable to the enforcement of treaties in preserving for them the rights guaranteed by the government.

As the time must come when they will change their present system how much better for them to inaugurate with you. Now, under an administration favorable to their rights the plan by which this change will be accomplished.

Very truly yours,

Hoke Smith
Secretary.

Henry L. Dawes.
Archibald S. McKennon.
Frank C. Armstrong.
T. B. Cabiness.
A. B. Montgomery.
Commissioners

Interior Department.

Commission to Five Civilized Tribes.
Muskogee, I. T.
May 13, 1895.

To the Hon. Jeff Gardner,
Principal Chief
Sagletown, Ind Ter.

Dear Sir:-

The Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes have been directed to present again to the several Nations for their further considerations the matters upon which they have been authorized to confer, and are in receipt of a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Interior in which he encloses one from the President of the United States disclosing his great interest in the success of this Commission in coming to some agreement with your people which will sanction all your just rights and promote your highest welfare, as well as contribute to the best interests of the whole country.

By direction of the Commission I enclose to you copies of these letters with the hope that you will make them known to your people and commend their spirit and purpose to the favorable consideration and cooperation of your Nations.

I am, with highest consideration.

Truly Yours,

Henry L. Dawes,
Chairman.

EXACT COPY

p. 23

Washington D. C. Nov^r 1891
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Dear Sir:

We, the children of the late General Albert Pike, intend to present a Memorial to the National Council of the Choctaw People at its coming session asking it to provide for payment to us out of the money that Congress at its last session appropriated for the Choctaws and Chickasaws-or otherwise- the compensation that was due to our father for his long, faithful and valuable services to the Choctaw People in the prosecution of their Wet Proceeds Claim-less the share thereof he promised to pay General Denver for his assistance.

The memorial-a copy of which will soon be placed in your hands-will advise you of the grounds upon which we will rest our request to the National Council, and this obviates our setting forth herein what will be found there in ample form.

Our friends advise us that you are one who loves to see justice done and we solicit your voice and influence in our behalf-we being well assured that if opposition be made at the coming Congress to the Choctaws and Chickasaws receiving the money so appropriated-the recognition by the Choctaw People of our most just claim upon them will not fail to recommend them favorably to the many friends of our father and ourselves who will be in the Congress to determine the matter.

One of us-- Mr. Luther H. Pike--hopes to be present at the coming session of the National Council to advocate in person our request's receiving favorable consideration and to have the honor of meeting and conferring with you whilst there.

We are very respectfully

Luther H. Pike

Signed:

Joan Pike

Hon. E. M. Everidge

Grant, N.

This is copied verbatim, period for period, dash for dash and no periods where none appeared in the letter. The word "signed" being the only one I inserted.

EVERIDGE, EDWARD M. COLLECTION.
May 13, 1937.

EXACT COPY

p. 24

San Bois. I. T. 1/8/96

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Judge Joel Everidge
Grant, I. T.

Dear Sir:

I have assumed the responsibility to call a convention of the leading Choctaws to meet at Muskahoma on Wednesday Jan'y, 22nd, to discuss the situation of our affairs, and try to formulate some plan to check the passage of the Territorial bills now pending before Congress.

I thought this a better plan than to have a Special Session of Council, as the average Council member, who does not read the daily papers, can not realize the dangers by which we [are] threatened, and might legislate in such a way as to make matters worse.

— We would very much like you to be present at the convention and assist us with your counsel and advice.

If these Territorial bills pass we are ruined, we have no say so in the disposition of our lands. The government takes every thing in its own hands and we are entirely ignored.

Your friend

Green McCurtain.

Green McCurtain.

May 13, 1937

EXACT COPY

P. 25

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No date. or heading.

Hon. J. W. Everidge,
Supreme Judge, 3d Dist. C. N.

Sir:

We, the undersigned, would respectfully
ask that you Honor Grant the accompanying pe-
tition of J. C. Hampton, believing to be
fully competent to practice law in any of the
Courts of this Nation.

Respectfully,

A. Telle.

Signed.

J. A. Homer.

This is an exact copy, spelling, punctuation,
capitals etc. It is the letter I referred to on
page one.

I imagine they meant "Your Honor, Grant the petition."

Thomas William Everidge and wife settled another place in 1833 at a point on Everidge Lake, about 6 or 7 miles S. E. of the home place, that was their bottom farm, that they had their slaves to work. It was rich, and produced lots of corn, cotton, etc. They built a big house on it also, in which to stay while they would have to be down there and supervise the work of the slaves. Then, too, they had the negro quarters. Just a perfect plantation, store and everything.

See, Paragraph 2 Page 14.

It might be interesting to record here that that letter was dated Sept. 24, 1870. The client was named David Tokaya, I believe, tho the first name was not quite clear, and the attorney was J. P. Folsom. The Post Script, which I never saw till today, is the interesting part, and is as follows:

"P. S. If you allow us a new hearing please order the Sheriff of Atoka County from executing the death warrant."

J. P. Folsom.

Copied, word for word.

Josiah Thomas, full blood Choctaw Indian, who lives at Corrinne, Oklahoma, was telling Judge Hunter in Choctaw, about how he once traveled the old Military trail from Fort Towson, and Doaksville a little north of west, to "Rock Chimney" crossing, on Kiamichi, river, (by the way of Pine Ridge Academy) just a little north of Doaksville, crossed the river at Rock Chimney, wound around up to what is still known as Spencer crossing, crossed again, on up through what is now Batten, and through Antlers, and Talihina, Poteau, and thence to Fort Smith.

The old Choctaw Indian, Josiah Thomas, said that when he was a little boy, he saw a "Big" 4 room log house, with the roof fallen in then and abandoned, with the old rock chimney; that the crossing on Kiamichi river, one mile north of the present town of Sawyer, Oklahoma, was named for. He said that he was told that long years before he was a little boy, some Chickasaws came down in here and built that house, then when this was made a Choctaw country alone, they abandoned it. Chickasaw named Yakambi.

This old Military trail led past the old "ball ground prairie" where games of Indian ball were played, about one half mile N.W. from the City of Hugo, pump station on Miami river, and that station is located about 9 miles East and a little North of the city of Hugo.

Games of Indian ball were played by the two Counties, Miami and Nowson County. The families and friends of the participants would come in wagons and camp, maybe two or three days before the games were scheduled to take place. Hobble and bell their horses and turn them loose to graze. They'd then proceed to barbecue beefs and hogs, preparatory to their stay.

The teams would be named, the "deer," "squirrel" or any name that took their fancy and each wore the emblem of the name. The tail of a deer or squirrel or whatever they were named, and wore it at the proper place.

At recess periods they drank coffee as hot as they possibly could swallow it. And the women kept plenty of it.

A surgeon was always in attendance, and always needed. The games were so rough. If opposing players could do no better they'd knock the fellow in the head with his stick, in order to get the ball. They never touched the ball with their hands, but always caught it in the cup-like end of the ball sticks of which each player held two.

Sometimes a scalp was laid open or a leg broken. The doctor was always kept busy.