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NECROLOGY
James H. Alexander

From copied manuscript and interview
of Peter Harrison, Wetumka, Oklahoma,
age 58.

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
6-26-37

Honorable James H. Alexander was born near Eufaula, Oklahoma, then Indian Territory, May 2, 1868. He received his grade school education in Asberry Mission School which was located near Eufaula, and his higher education was obtained in schools in Kansas and Texas.

Mr. Alexander was a remarkable man of good parentage. Both his father and grandfather were members of Tulwa Thakko town (tulwa), while his wife was a descendant of the famous leader, Menawee. Minnie Menawee now lives in Tulsa, who is a descendant of this chief.

James H. Alexander was an efficient and faithful servant of his tribe, his country and his State. He has served as a Government Field Clerk, Interpreter and also served his county as Deputy County Clerk, Deputy County Treasurer in 1930 he was elected County

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Treasurer of Hughes County, Oklahoma.

He was honored member of the Masonic Order and had been advanced to the 32nd degree, holding many offices, and was secretary of the Lodge in Holdenville where he lived for eighteen years.

He was a member of the Old Middle Creek Indian Church since 1892, as he held important offices in the Baptist Association for twenty-seven consecutive years. He did not have any children.

He was held in high esteem by all who knew him as was shown by the unusually large congregation of both white and Indian people who attended his funeral services held in the First Baptist Church in Holdenville, Oklahoma, on January 11, 1932.

OLD SONGS

An interview of Peter Harrison,
age 58, Wetumka, Oklahoma

Billie Lyrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
7-29-30

At the time when some of the Muskogee-Creek Indians were forced to leave their old homes and come to the Indian Territory, they knew that they were not only parting from the homes they loved but they were also parting from loved ones and friends.

Many of the Indians gathered and raised their voices in song. Some of the songs sung were, "I am leaving my home, (with faces towards to South) I am going to the unknown land, (with faces towards West) Death is certain and sure, How far is my journey, I do not know."

There was another song which was sung then and is still sung in the present day Indian churches with the words, "wherever you are and wherever you go, Pray for me and I will pray for you! There are other words which have been added.

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There were such gatherings where the Indians sang and talked to one another to give encouragement.

I have often heard many of the older Indians tell and relate when the first white men was seen by the Indians. In the early days the older Indians were always telling the younger ones, "There will be pain and heartaches among us in the days to come. A divided is to come." It was then believed that the divided had come in the form of the white men. It was further told that before the white men set foot upon the land, the Indians were ready to defend their homes and land by keeping, raised bows and arrows on the whites.