

DAVIS, POLLY JONES

INTERVIEW

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Jas. S. Buchanan, Interviewer,
October 26, 1937.

Statement of Polly Jones Davis
Hoffman, Oklahoma

I am a sister of Wilson Jones whose enrollment name was Chitto Harjo, town or clan name known as Crazy Snake. I was older than my brother, Chitto Harjo, and was an eye witness and have a distinct recollection of the trouble that resulted in the wounding of my brother. I was at our home, which was a short distance from the home of Chitto Harjo, when a posse of white people approached his home and opened fire at the house or at any one they could see. There were three negroes and Charley Coker, a full blood Creek, at the home of Chitto Harjo when the posse approached and started the trouble. The three negroes immediately ran away and had it not been for Charley Coker remaining at the house with Chitto Harjo and aiding in his defense of the home, there is no doubt but that they would have killed Chitto Harjo.

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My brother was wounded in the shots that were exchanged which also resulted in the death of one of the possemen. After my brother fled from the house to avoid further trouble, the posse burned his home. When the posse had gone away, Chitto Harjo appeared at our house and told us that he was wounded in the side and asked for a blanket and told us he was going away. We gave him a blanket and he left the place and I never saw him again.

He left the Creek Nation and went to the Choctaw Nation and remained among the Choctaws until his death in 1912.

In the summer of 1912, Saline Jacobs, the daughter of Chitto Harjo, sent me word that her father was dead and said they were going to his funeral near McAlester. I did not get to go. He was buried near McAlester; I have never been to his grave and do not know of the exact location.

The cause of the battle was a personal enmity which some white people held toward my brother. They

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circulated a false report to the effect that some of their smoke houses in the community had been robbed of meat and accused Chitto Harjo and his friends of doing it. Of course, such reports were resented by him and his friends. Chitto Harjo was convinced that the posse that approached his home that day did not come for the purpose of arresting him but to murder him in cold blood and his actions were only in self-defense.