

MONAHAN, MINNIE

INTERVIEW

#7935

35

Investigator, Nettie Cain,
October 21, 1917.

Interview with Minnie Monahée.

Holdenville, Oklahoma.

Minnie Monahée, Creek Indian, was born May 20, 1894, near Okmulgee across the Deep Fork River on the old Monahée homestead. This place is now known as Tiger Flat.

Rachel C. Checote, Creek Indian, was born near Okmulgee, Indian Territory, March 14, 1869. Her Indian name was "Chutke," meaning "Little." Her father was Scotch-Irish.

Chief Samuel Checote was born in the Chattahoochee Valley in Alabama in the early 1800's and came to the Indian Territory in 1829 with his parents.

Chief Samuel Checote was a descendant of Chief Osceola of Florida. He was the son of an Englishman, a trader, named Powell.

Osceola was a great uncle to Rachel Checote. His mother, Sallie Marie, was the daughter of a Chief woman; she was very small in stature. Osceola lived with his parents in Florida and later moved to Georgia where he lived until 1832 when the Creek Indians moved to the Indian Territory.

-2-

He lived until he was almost twelve years old in the Creek Confederacy of Georgia.

Osceola was known as the "Rising Sun," a Chief and a hero for the Seminole Indians of Florida. His carriage was erect and he was quick in motion; his youthful mind received a deep and lasting impression from Tecumseh, his teacher.

Chief Sam Checote, while in Alabama, attended school in a Methodist Mission at the age of nine years. After he came to the Indian Territory he continued his education until 1835. The town Checotah was named in his honor.

Samuel Checote was elected Chief before the Civil War. During the Civil War, he was commander of the First Creek regiment and was a lieutenant colonel. One of the most picturesque happenings in the Indian Territory was participated in by Colonel Checote and his first Creek regiment, which formed a part of the first Indian Cavalry Brigade of the Confederate Army.

In 1867, Samuel Checote was elected first Constitutional Chief of the Creek Nation. The Creeks adopted a written Constitution, according to which a Chief was elected to serve

-3-

four years. In 1878 Checote was elected First Constitutional Chief of the Creek Nation, which held its annual General Assembly in Okmulgee. There were present thirty-four delegates representing 10,000 Indians.

Rachel Checote, daughter of the Principal Chief lived with her father about one mile west of Okmulgee near Newtown, and attended school at the Tallahassee Mission, which was known as a Manual Labor Boarding School and which was conducted in the Creek Nation between 1880 and 1887 when Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson was principal. The mission burned one winter before the term was finished and Rachel Checote later entered school at the Presbyterian Mission under Miss Alice Robertson.

In 1885 Miss Alice Robertson took some Indian students, both girls and boys, to Carlisle Institute at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Rachel being one of those taken.

By vote of the Indian council these certain boys and girls were selected to attend the school at Carlisle for three years.

Chief Checote went to visit Rachel while returning from Washington, D. C., where he had gone to attend to affairs of

-4-

the Creek Nation. After three years in school Miss Checote returned to Okmulgee to attend the funeral of her father who is buried a mile west of Okmulgee.

Miss Checote attended school at Harrell Institute in Muskogee when Mr. T. F. Brewer was the superintendent. After her father's death Rachel was left with very little money and it was quite hard for her to go to school.

In 1889 she taught school at Nuyaka Mission and after teaching one year, in 1890 she was married to John Monahoe.

They had one daughter, Minnie.

Rachel Checote Monahoe was employed in the House of Kings and was Secretary to the District Judge for a year or two, later teaching school at Weleetka where she taught the Indians of Alabama Town. She moved to Holdenville in 1898 and began teaching near Little River. She taught the Indians who lived near the place which was known as Tulsa Town.

The Methodist Church at Checotah was founded or organized by Sam Checote. The Reverend M. L. Checote was a nephew and the Reverend Sam J. Checote was a grand-son of Chief Samuel Checote.

-5-

Rachel Checote Monahwee later joined the Baptist Church and was a missionary to the Florida Seminole in the Everglades. She spent several months in the Everglades with Mrs. Alice B. Davis and the Reverend Mr. A. F. Goat.

It was very hard for the Seminole children in the Florida Everglades to learn Bible verses because they spoke only in the Creek language.

Note : (The spelling of Monahwee in this manuscript should doubtless be Monahwee. Rachel Checote Monahwee is now deceased. Ed.)