

DEPOSITION OF SUSAN DAVIS MARTIN

Q. State your name, please.

A. Susan Davis Martin

Q. When were you born?

A. April 27, 1873

Q. Where were you born?

A. Geneva County, Alabama

Q. What was the name of your Mother?

A. Mary Ward Davis

Q. How old was she when she died?

A. Born March 26, 1838 Died March 21, 1921

Q. Where was she living at the time?

A. Geneva County, Alabama

Q. Do you remember the race of people to which she belonged?

A. Yes

Q. What race?

A. The Creek Indian race

Q. Do you remember your Grandmother?

A. Yes

Q. What was her name?

A. Elizabeth English Ward

Q. Do you remember when she died?

A. Yes

Q. How old were you at the time?

A. About 10 years

Q. Do you remember where she died?

A. Yes, at my parents house

Q. Do you remember who was present when she died?

A. Yes

Q. Name the person or persons, please.

A. Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Ward Jackson, James R. Bellis, my Mother and Father, several younger brothers and sisters, and myself.

Q. Do you remember where she was buried?

A. Yes, about two miles from where she died, now known as the Old Purvis Cemetery.

Q. Do you remember her physical characteristics?

A. Yes

Q. Please state the color of her skin.

A. Dark copper color

Q. What was the color of her hair?

A. Black

Q. What was the color of her eyes?

A. Dark brown

Q. How tall was she?

A. About 5 ft. 1 in.

Q. What was her average weight?

A. About 130 lbs.

Q. Do you remember her age when she died?

A. As near as I can recollect, 85 years.

Q. Did you ever hear her say from what race of people she originated?

A. Yes, The Indian Race.

Q. Any particular tribe of Indian?

A. Yes

Q. What tribe?

A. The Creek Indian Tribe.

Q. Did you ever hear her say where she was born?

A. Yes, in Georgia.

Q. Did you ever hear her say what part of Georgia?

A. Yes, On the west side of the Ocmulgee River.

Q. Did you ever hear her say by whom she was reared?

A. Yes, James English

Q. Did you ever hear her say where she met her husband, James Ward?

A. No

Q. Did you ever hear your Grandmother, Elizabeth English Ward, say what business her foster father, James English, was engaged in with the Creek Indians when he found her abandoned?

A. Yes

Q. What was the business?

A. Trading one commodity for another.

Q. Did your Grandmother, Elizabeth Ward, ever say in your presence where she was abandoned?

A. Yes

Q. Where was it?

A. On the west shore of the Ocmulgee River

Q. Did she ever say in your presence who abandoned her?

A. Yes

Q. Who was it?

A. Her parents

Q. Did you ever hear her relate the circumstances?

A. Yes

Q. Will you please recite them briefly?

A. She said they left her for safety while they went shad-fishing, that the swift currents were dangerous.

Q. Did she say what time of year this was?

A. Yes, in the spring.

Q. I believe you stated previously that you were present when your Grandmother, Elizabeth Ward, died?

A. Yes, I did say that.

Q. Did she die of infirmity?

A. No

- Q. What caused her death?  
 A. She got her feet caught in the bed covering on getting out of bed, fell awkwardly to the floor and broke her hip, which resulted in her death. I remember well it was just before Christmas in 1883.
- Q. How long did she live after she fell off of the bed?  
 A. About one week.
- Q. Did you ever hear her say why she registered with the Federal Census Enumerator as a white person?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What did she say the reasons were?  
 A. She said that she and her husband, James Ward, agreed shortly after their marriage that they would receive many advantages by registering white that they would not receive had she registered as a Creek Indian.
- Q. Did your Grandmother, Elizabeth English Ward, use tobacco in any way?  
 A. Yes, she smoked a pipe. She would put the tobacco in her crippled hand and load the pipe with her good hand.
- Q. Was she generally known by all who knew her to be a Creek Indian?  
 A. Yes, by everyone.

State of Alabama  
 County of Geneva

Before me the undersigned, duly authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments, personally appeared, Susan Davis Martin, known to me to be the person she represents herself to be, deposes and saith, that she is 84 years old and is a Granddaughter of Elizabeth English Ward and James Ward; and,

That she is of sound mind and memory, but conscious of the uncertainties of life; and,

That she further avers that the contents of the deposition herewith attached is true and correct to the best of her recollection, knowledge, and belief.

*Susan Martin*  
 SUSAN DAVIS MARTIN

Attest:

*R. S. Ward*  
*Wm. B. Bittome*  
*John DeLoach*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1937.

*R. S. Ward*  
 County Judge  
 Geneva County.