

January 8, 1980

Interview with Lura McCook

This interview was conducted by Lucius Ellsworth. A copy of the original audio is stored in the Creek Indian Project files, University of West Florida Archives, Pensacola, FL.

Don Sharon visited the University of West Florida, listened to this audio, and made the following notes.

NOTE: Unfortunately, the University of West Florida did not receive signed authorizations from those interviewed. Therefore, they cannot transcribe or copy or release these audios at this time. However, individuals can schedule time to listen to the audio onsite.

Notes by DON SHARON

from University of W. Va. papers

8-7 #19 MAZIE PATE from BRUCE (BLANK)

8-7 #13 LURA MCCOOK

LURA Started searching records for docket 21 in 195
Was present for court trial in Wash. D.C.
Gov. offered $1\frac{1}{2}$ \$ per Acre

LURA KNEW SUSAN MARTIN DAVIS, visited each other
in their homes.

E. E. W. traded gun powder to INDIANS. Kept
goods ON SCAFFOLD in woods to prevent bears
from getting it. EEW. kept home fires burning
while J. B. W. was gone. Indian protected her while
J. B. W. was gone. ~~Other~~. APRIL 27, 1873 BIRTH
OF SUSAN MARTIN DAVIS, ~~EEW~~ SUSAN SAID THE
EEW. WAS DARK SKINNED, BLACK HAIR, AND
DARK BROWN EYES. EEW. WAS CREEK INDIAN AND
WAS BORN IN GA. ON WEST SIDE OF OKMULGE
RIVER. INDIANS VISITED EEW. AND WERE FRIENDS
KEPT INDIAN IDENTITY SECRET FROM NEIGHBORS. DIAMOND
JOE MOVED TO FLA. AND BUILT OWN SCHOOL HOUSE
FOR CHILDREN, BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT GO TO SCHOOL
IN ALABAMA. DID NOT SPEAK CREEK LANGUAGE
FOR FEAR OF BEING DISCOVERED AS INDIAN.
GOVT OFFERED D. J. W. A GOOD PRICE TO DO
STEALING THEIR HORSES. D. J. W. (USED TO HIDE IN
CYPRESS LOG IN WATER. USED TO HIDE IN STICK
AND MUD CHIMNEY.) STOLE HORSES WHEN

Timber Industry - Ed Pate & Grover Burnham
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BURNHAM WAS SOME KIND OF INDIAN, MOTHER'S FATHER WAS FULL BLOODED INDIAN. ED PATE'S GRANDPAW CAME FROM BLACK, ALA., KILLED A MAN AND MOVED TO FLA. SETTLED FIRST AT BONIFAY LATER MOVED TO BRUCE AREA FOR ISOLATION OF AREA. CREEK BRANCHES NAMED FOR DIFFERENT FAMILIES WHO RESIDED ON THEM. WORKED IN LOGGING INDUSTRY CUT TIMBER AND FLOATED TO MILLS IN CREEKS. FILLED LOGS OUT OF WOODS WITH OX CARTS. CHARLIE McKEEVER MADE CARTS FOR INDUSTRY. CARTS WERE 8 TO 10 FT. HIGH. GENERALLY USE 4 TO 8 OX YOKE TEAMS TO PULL. RAFTED LOGS WITH STONE BUNDLES TO HOLD THEM. WAS PAID IN TOKENS AND GROCERIES. A. J. WARD HAD TOKENS HE USED IN HIS STORE. TOKENS WERE MADE OF ALUMINUM AND BRASS. J. D. RUSS CO. ON BLACK CREEK MADE 1-2 MILLION ON BLACK CREEK. TURPENTINE COS. WERE COMPETITIVE. WARD, BISHOPS, ENFUSEN HAD OWN HOMESTEADS. ROSIN WAS WORTH ABOUT \$7.50 PER BARREL BUT SOLD FOR \$14.00 A GOUT. BARREL (GOOD DESCRIPTION OF TURPENTINE STILL). JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST ON FULL MOON WAS BEST TIME FOR SAP TO RUN OUT OF TREES. BARREL FULL WEIGHED ABOUT 600 LBS. EMPTY WEIGHED ABOUT 100 LBS. GOOD "STREAKERS" (TREE SCARRERS) WERE SOUGHT AFTER. FEW FAMILIES OF BLACKS LIVED AT "SHILOH" BLACKS WERE PAID SAME AS WHITE. GROVER WORKED 15,400 ROSIN CUPS. TERRITORIES WERE MARKED OUT IN FOREST.

the goats. Herded them across stream.

Wards multiplied in Fla - 15 in one bunch and ten in another bunch. F.E.W. and D.B.W. agreed to register on census as white to hide Indian identity and so they could receive advantages as whites. F.E.W. smoked pipe. Most of LURA'S Bro + Sist had ~~had~~ blue eyes or blue green. LURA'S mother used to joke and say she only had two Indian children because only two had brown eyes. LURA'S mother was Indian but not Creek.

~~LURA WAS AT Detchamps, at Pensacola~~ LURA

"Spent Hundreds of dollars researching family's Indian heritage". Her daddy preached for 50 years (Thomas Franklin Ward). Grandpa Jeff lived with Susan Ward. Every Sunday ~~25~~ 25 or 30 Indians gathered at LURA'S Home place when she was a child. Supplies came by boat from Pensacola. Provided everything themselves but the staples. LURA was 12 yrs old at this time. Swept yards clean. Cooked huge dinners when she was a child (25 pie, 9 cokes, and other things). Mother made Sassaquin and other kind of tea.