





mention that an in-law of the family  
had kept many of our older family papers  
and he had been very helpful, allowing  
us to have copies of documents proving



our family tree, where census' were impossible to find. That man had said something that needed looking into. He said that a man named Jessie Ward, son of Monroe Ward who was youngest son of James B Ward had in his possession a letter ~~from~~ his father had given him, and that if we could get the letter we could prove our Indian heritage.

My husband, with J J Ward visited Jessie Ward and he being old and very suspicious seemingly, refused to talk with them about anything that concerned Indians or Indian business, at which time my husband came home and contacted a lady relative, a very persuasive person and told her that he felt sure Jessie Ward did have something important. He evidently had indicated as much. She went immediately to see Jessie Ward and he showed her the letter from James B Ward to his father Monroe Ward, gave it to her on spot. She had it recorded at the Court House. I won't go into the problems that caused

At any rate we did have a written document approved by the Indian Commission, had our family tree, had met many of our relatives we never would have known otherwise, spent much money and time, when we were finally able to participate in the



would have known otherwise, spent  
much money and time, when we were  
finally able to participate in Docket 21  
funds, paid for lands for which so many  
Indians had fought and lost their lives.  
Many articles have been written  
about our Grandfather and Grandmother.



She was Elizabeth English, one little orphan girl, reared by a Mr James English and his wife Nancy English. Elizabeth inherited property from them, and her husband James B. Ward was given Power of Attorney to see said property 24 Feb 1837. Recorded in Decatur County Ga. Court house 24 Aug 1838 Deed book D - pages 374 & 375.

We have found more evidence ~~to~~ to prove the story <sup>all</sup> of us have heard about Mrs. English and a group of men with their <sup>of</sup> carts, travelling to the Gulf of Mexico for the purpose of extracting salt from the water for their use in curing meat etc.

As they were leaving a violent ~~it~~ violent thunderstorm suddenly caused them to take shelter in some trees and low brush. Several Indian children ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> were playing near by ran away, leaving one small girl. The men waited several hours thinking any moment some one would come hunting for the child. Finally they decided to move on knowing that any one on a horse could easily catch them with their slow moving <sup>of</sup> teams. No one came, and it goes with the story that the next year when they came back to get salt and inquired in the area were told that a bear had caught a child <sup>the</sup> <sup>near</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>place</sup>.



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child the year before -

One of the oldsters told of the time  
the James B. Ward family had moved to  
Bear Creek, north of Malvern. James and his  
older sons were building a cabin and locked



having the roof on when her James had to leave for Mabile on a cattle drive, leaving the baby to complete the roof. That night the wolves came in numbers, howled and threatened them. She said they kept a large fire all night and by morning the wolves had gone. Needless to say by that night they had a finished roof and a secure cabin. She said the Indians helped the her grandmother, because she was an Indian. They brought her turkey, deer and any game they found. She in turn gave powder and shot, things they needed for fighting the hostiles. They cautioned her at times not to allow her sons out of the clearing because of hostile Indians.

Joe, son of James B. (commonly called Diamond Joe) came to Florida at the close of the civil war. He settled on a homestead at what is known as "Dead River". He and two of his brothers married Purvis girls from Geneva County Ala. All came and settled near each other bringing their wives and children. Like most all settlers they farmed and hunted & fished. The oldest brother came also and possibly near the others, settled near the Choctawhatchee. He stayed long enough for two of his daughters to marry local men. Then he returned to the rich red land of



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then he returned to the rich red land of  
Alabama - This "poor" sand land nearly starved  
his family - Elizabeth lived with her youngest  
son Monroe later, after they left the oldest  
son J. J. - James B had passed away by this  
time. To be continued and edited  
Marque Arnette