

Dawes Card #520 Choctaw Full Blood The Story of Stewart Austin and Hortense Thompson

**Native American Research Case #3
Compiled by Helen Cook Austin, Ph. D.**

Not all of the Choctaws who were enumerated by The Dawes Commission lived in Oklahoma (Indian Territory). Because of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, some of the Choctaw were allowed to remain in the part of East Mississippi where they had lived all their lives. This was the case of Stewart Austin and his wife, Hortense Thompson. They made application at the government office in Meridian Mississippi in 1901.

Stewart was born, a full blood Choctaw, in Coffadelliah, Neshoba County, Mississippi, in 1881. This is near the present-day town of Philadelphia and the popular Choctaw casino, Silver Moon, on the Pearl River. The father of Stewart was named Austin. As far as he knew, that was the only name his father had. His mother was named Sealy. That could be a surname. Her Choctaw name was *Pis-ah-ho-le-moh*.

The sister of Stewart is Alice Austin who was born in 1990 in Mississippi. Stewart had a brother John Long, who lived with Ed Henson. A study of the 1900, 1880 and 1870 census of that location shows several families with the surname of Stewart, Seale, and Long, but no Austins. There is a possibility that his father was from the Stewart family. Since his father was only known, by the name of Austin, and he died when Stewart was only three years old, it is not surprising that Stewart knew very little about him. His father was estimated by Stewart to have been born about 1836 and he died about 1884 when he was about age 48. Stewart's mother, Sealy, whose birth date was estimated at 1836, died about 1896, at age 60.

The Dawes interrogators had to have a translator present when they asked Stewart their questions, because he spoke and understood very little English. Stewart said he had never left the vicinity of Neshoba County in all his life. The interrogator observed that Stewart did have the appearance of a full blood Choctaw Indian and spoke fluent Choctaw language.

Stewart married Hortense Thompson about 1902. She was born in 1884 in Northbend, Neshoba County, Mississippi, the daughter of Allison Thompson and Martha Bell. Her father died before 1888. Her grandfather was Bill Thompson, deceased. Martha Bell Thompson was age 55 in 1901. The father of Martha was Ailen, Elan, or Allison Bell, Becky or Rebecca was the name of the mother of Martha. Hortense had a sister named Lena Thompson who was age 14 in 1901. Lena was a full blood Choctaw, as were all the people in the family of Hortense.

In 1910 Stewart and Hortense are still living in Neshoba County, Mississippi. They have two young sons, Jimpson or Jemmison and Lee. Also in the household are Stewart's mother-in-law, Martha Bell Thompson age 65, and next door is the uncle of Hortense, Buddie Bell.

Although he told the Dawes Commission that he was born in 1881, The U. S. Census of 1910, for Neshoba County, has Stewart's birth date as 1875. The 1920 Census has a birth date of 1882 and the 1930 Census has a date of 1873. His Draft Card of 1918 has a birth date of 1881. Chances are that he did not know his exact age, or else misunderstood the census enumerator's question.

Stewart did receive a land lot in Oklahoma where he moved before 1913. In 1918 when Stewart registered for the Draft of the U. S. Military for World War I, he was living at a community called Neff, in Pontotoc

County, Oklahoma. He was described as an Indian, a married farmer, of medium height, with black hair, and black eyes. On the 1920 census for Pontotoc County, his household was in Fitzhugh Township. His children listed with him are: Jimmerson, born 1903; Lee, a son, born 1907; Rena, a daughter, born 1913; and Mitch or Micha, a son, born 1916.

Sometime after 1930, Stewart died in Fitzhugh, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. His wife, Hortense lived until December of 1975 in Roff, Fitzhugh Township, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. No further information about their children has been found. It is not known whether Stewart served in the military during World War I.

FULL BLOOD
MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW INDIANS.

CARD NO. 5099
FIELD NO. 5099

NAME	Date of Birth	AGE	SEX	BLOOD	TRIBAL ENROLLMENT		TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OF PARENTS					
					Year	No.	Name of Father	Year	Name of Mother	Year	No.	
<i>Stewart Austin</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>full</i>			<i>Austin</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>Choctaw</i>	<i>Healy Austin</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>Choctaw</i>
<i>Alice</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>"</i>			<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>

IDENTIFIED

DECISION RENDERED FEB 14 1903

COPY OF DECISION FORWARDED APPLICANT MAR 11 1903

*In testimony of March 28, 1902
Hortense Austin wife of A. I. appears on Dues Che. 2, 1888*

COPY OF DECISION FORWARDED ATTORNEY FOR CHOCTAW AND CHICKSAW NATIONS FEB 21 1903

TO IDENTIFIED MISSISSIPPI
CHOCTAW CARD No. 126

ENCLOSURE PREPARED

MAR 28 1902

Dawes Card MCR5099 – Stewart Austin

MCR 5099 Continued – next page

#1931

No. 5099

For Identification as a Mississippi Choctaw.

Seale Miss. Date MAR 28 1902

Name Stewart Austin

Age 21 Blood full

Post Office, Coffadeli ah, Miss.

Father: Austin d

Mother: Sealy d
Pis-ah-ho-le-mah

Claims through

wife Hortense Austin L

Father Allison Thompson L

Mother Martha L

See M. C. R. 1888 as to Hortense.

Children:

For self ~~and~~ and

minor sister

Alice Austin (Full) 12

Stenographer

R. S. Street