The Irons–Roberts Mississippi Choctaw Claim, 1900–1907

Records, witnesses and analysis of Dawes Commission applications MCR 612, 491, 611 and 613 · compiled by D. Hurley for the Hurley Family Tree (familytree-search.org) · version 1.3, 21 November 2026

Conclusion

In 1900 four related men from near Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, claimed rights as Mississippi Choctaws through an ancestor called **Me-shune-tubbee**, said to be the father of **Eliza (Lizzie) Tubbee**, wife of **Elisha Baker**. The records do not support that descent:

- The Dawes Commission refused all 21 applicants (27 April 1903). The Secretary of the Interior affirmed it (15 August 1904), and a motion to reopen was denied (16 January 1907).
- The 1853 land patent the family filed as proof belonged to a different Me-shune-tubbee, a boy under ten in 1830.
- Elisha Baker's wife is named **Polly**, not Eliza, in his own 1816 deed in Washington County, Missouri Territory. A family account makes her a Rickman from Greene County, Tennessee. Online trees that call her "Eliza Tubbee" trace back to these 1900 affidavits and cite no earlier record.
- The witness statements were written for the case. The Houston statements were sworn before a notary who was married into the claimant family, and they were sent in only after the hearing. Two of the three Houston witnesses cannot be found in any other record.
- The family's attorney, J. W. Cherryholmes of Purcell, brought at least one other Texas-born claimant with no tribal record before the Commission the next day, using the same approach.
- Family members who have taken autosomal DNA tests report no Native American ancestry (reported to the compiler; not reviewed here).

The true family facts in the statements, such as Polly Baker's marriages to John Irons and later Smith and her children, agree with the tree. The Choctaw ancestry was added to them.

How to cite this document

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Repository note: Based on NARA M1301, Applications for Enrollment of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (Mississippi Choctaw, MCR 491, 611, 612, 613), viewed on Fold3; BLM General Land Office records; FamilySearch historical records; and affidavit images posted to Ancestry public member trees.

Cite a specific point by part and item, for example "Part II, claim 2" or "Part III, I. R. McCasland." Each point links to its original record, which can also be cited directly.

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Part I — The case file

1. The four files

Packet	Principal applicant (tree ID)	Others in the application	Key images
MCR 612	John C. Irons, 49 (I902)	Five minor children: Carrie B. (I912), Lula May (I913), Myrtle Lee (I904), William N. (I905), Roxie A. (I906). Later: Carrie's husband Jackson V. Mackey (I847) and daughter Annie Elvira Mackey (I934).	Testimony 54729126, 54729132; draft decision 54729224, 54729231
MCR 491	John Roberts, 45 (I807)	Daughters Leila Belle (I809) and Lily Ellis (I810). Later: Charley McKinney (I933) and Minnie Attie McKinney (I932).	Testimony 98864566–98864608; supplemental decision 98864838
MCR 611	John Edward Irons, 25 (I907)	Minor son Loyd (I909).	Testimony 54728766–54728781; decision 54728784–54728840
MCR 613	James Henry Roberts, 44 (I483)	Eight minor children: Henry (I442), Julia (I732), Johnnie (I678), Ida (I729), Mandy Lee (I730), Elias (I731), Cashier (I628), O. D. (I677). Birth papers for an infant born 12 Feb 1902 (likely I627).	Testimony 54729818–54729825; birth papers 54729828

The four applications were consolidated as “John C. Irons et al.” and decided together. Fold3 image numbers are links.

2. Timeline

Date	Event	Source
15 Apr 1853	President Franklin Pierce issues a patent to Jasper H. Harvey, assignee of Ish-te-min-che, representative of Me-shune-tubbee, deceased, on scrip no. 850 C under the Act of 23 Aug 1842. 80.71 acres, Columbus, Mississippi land district.	BLM GLO STA-MS2590__.457; MCR 612 54729522
12 Jul 1900	All four men testify at Muskogee, I.T. They live about 10 miles west of Purcell, Chickasaw Nation. Exhibits filed, including the original or certified patent.	MCR 612, 491, 611, 613 testimony
14 Aug 1900	Stenographer Myra Young certifies the transcripts.	MCR 611 54728781
12 Oct 1900	Letter about the applications.	MCR 612
Nov 1902	Carrie B. Mackey and Jackson V. Mackey file papers. Birth of Annie Elvira Mackey (23 Apr 1902, Dibble) is proved.	MCR 612
16 & 30 Dec 1902	Letters: no decision yet.	MCR 612
12 Jan 1903	Commission writes to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about the 1853 patent and the 1843 adjudication of Me-shune-tubbee.	MCR 612 54729522
Undated (early 1903)	Draft decision, never signed, that would have **granted** John C. Irons and his five children.	MCR 612 54729224, 54729231, 54729361
Feb–Apr 1903	Status letters.	MCR 612 54729392
27 Apr 1903	**Decision:** all 21 applicants refused. Signed Tams Bixby, T. B. Needles and C. R. Breckinridge.	MCR 611 54728784–54728840
7 May 1903	Extension letter.	MCR 612
10 Jul 1903	Supplemental decision refuses Charley McKinney (son of Leila Belle and Herman McKinney) and Minnie Attie McKinney (daughter of Lily Ellis and William McKinney).	MCR 491 98864838
27 Jul 1903	Record sent to the Secretary of the Interior.	MCR 611 54728899
10 Aug 1904	Indian Office report by A. C. Tonner, Acting Commissioner, recommends approval of the refusal.	MCR 612 54729587–54729598
15 Aug 1904	Secretary of the Interior affirms the refusal.	MCR 611 54728975
Aug 1904 – 1905	Notices to the applicants. Case closed.	MCR 611, 612
20 Jun 1906	Motion to reopen filed by attorney James A. Cotner, Ardmore.	MCR 612 54729638
11 Oct 1906	Indian Office letter on the motion.	MCR 612 54729625
16 Jan 1907	Motion denied (Thos. Ryan, First Assistant Secretary). Notices sent 25 Jan 1907.	MCR 612 54729634; MCR 491 98864859
24 Apr 1942	Request for a photostat of the Jackson V. Mackey – Carrie Irons marriage license, to prove age for defense work.	MCR 612 54729655

3. What the applicants said (12 July 1900)

John C. Irons — MCR 612

- Age 49; post office Purcell, I.T., living about 10 miles west; about 5 years in the Chickasaw Nation. Claims one-eighth Choctaw blood.
- Father Elisha Irons (said to be one-quarter Choctaw); mother Delilah. Born in Texas.
- Earlier homes: Parker County, Texas (about 9 years), Shackelford County (about 3 years), and before that Trinity County.

- Said his father and grandfather came to the Indian Territory in the late 1830s, were dissatisfied and went back to Mississippi. His father left Mississippi about 1846–47 and came to Texas (Trinity County).
- Wife Mollie Irons, 47, a white woman. Children under 21: Carrie B. 17, Lula May 14, Myrtle Lee about 10, William N. 9, Roxie A. 7.
- Exhibits: A, affidavit of Melvina L. Roberts; B, the patent to Jasper H. Harvey; C, marriage license of John Irons and Mollie McKinney.

  “Q. What relation was this Me-Shune-Tubbee to you? A. He was my great grand-father. … Well, he would be the father of my great grand-mother.”

John Roberts — MCR 491

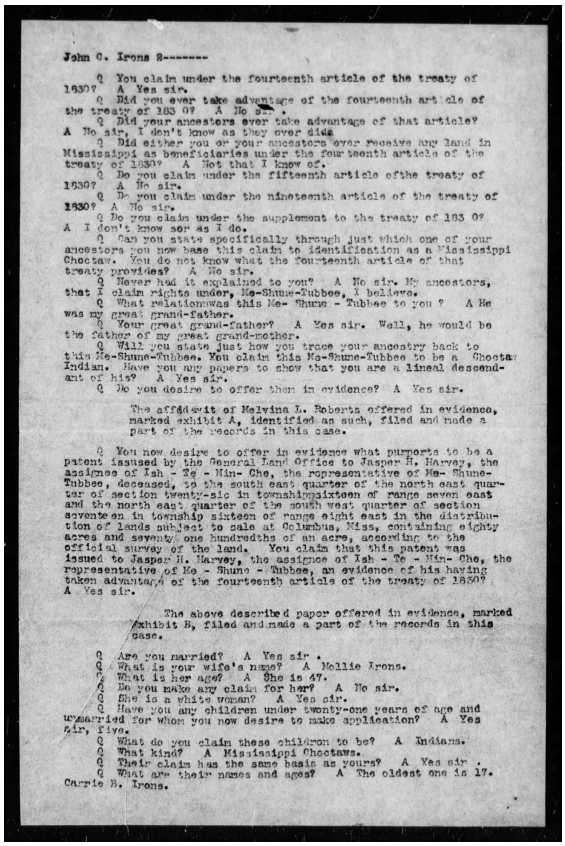
- Age 45; Purcell, about 8 years in the Chickasaw Nation; came from Comanche County, Texas; born in Texas. Claims one-sixteenth, through his grandmother.
- Father Elias Roberts; mother Patsy. Wife Frances, white, about 45. Children Leila Belle 14 and Lily (Lillie) Ellis 11.
- Filed a certified copy of the Franklin Pierce patent to Jasper H. Harvey under the Act of 23 August 1842.

John Edward Irons — MCR 611

- Age 25; Purcell, about 10 miles west, a little over 5 years there. Born and raised in Texas; never lived in Mississippi. Claims about one-eighth.
- Father John Irons and mother Mollie Irons, both living. Claims through his father; says his father’s father lived in Mississippi but died before he was born.
- Exhibits: A, affidavit of Melvina Roberts; B, marriage license and certificate of John E. Irons and Ida Newman. Minor child Loyd.

James Henry Roberts — MCR 613

- Age 44; Purcell, about 10 miles west, only 7 or 8 months in the Territory; most of his life in Texas.
- Father Elias Roberts; mother Patsy Ann. Traces his claim through Polly Baker, daughter of Eliza and Elisha Baker, and “Eliza Tubbe.”
- Wife Emily, about 34. Children: Henry 14, Julia 13, Johnnie 12, Ida 11, Mandy Lee 9, Elias 6, Cashier, and O. D. Marriage exhibit: J. H. Roberts and Emily Tillis.



John C. Irons 2-------

Q You claim under the fourteenth article of the treaty of 1830? A Yes sir.
Q Did you ever take advantage of the fourteenth article of the treaty of 183 0? A No sir.
Q Did your ancestors ever take advantage of that article? A No sir, I don't know as they ever did.
Q Did either you or your ancestors ever receive any land in Mississippi as beneficiaries under the fourteenth article of the treaty of 1830? A Not that I know of.
Q Do you claim under the fifteenth article ofthe treaty of 1830? A No sir.
Q Do you claim under the nineteenth article of the treaty of 1830? A No sir.
Q Do you claim under the supplement to the treaty of 183 0? A I don't know aor as I do.
Q Can you state specifically through just which one of your ancestors you now base this claim to identification as a Mississippi Choctaw. You do not know what the fourteenth article of that treaty provides? A No sir.
Q Never had it explained to you? A No sir. My ancestors, that I claim rights under, Me-Shune-Tubbee, I believe.
Q What relationwas this Me- Shune - Tubbee to you ? A He was my great grand-father.
Q Your great grand-father? A Yes sir. Wall, he would be the father of my great grand-mother.
Q Will you state just how you trace your ancestry back to this Me-Shune-Tubbee. You claim this Me-Shune-Tubbee to be a Choctaw Indian. Have you any papers to show that you are a lineal descendant of his? A Yes sir.
Q Do you desire to offer them in evidence? A Yes sir.

The affidavit of Melvina L. Roberts offered in evidence, marked exhibit A, identified as such, filed and made a part of the records in this case.

Q You now desire to offer in evidence what purports to be a patent issued by the General Land Office to Jasper H. Harvey, the assignee of Ish - Ke - Min- Che, the representative of Me- Shune-Tubbee, deceased, to the south east quarter of the north east quarter of section twenty-six in township sixteen of range seven east and the north east quarter of the south west quarter of section seventeen in township sixteen of range eight east in the distribution of lands subject to sale at Columbus, Miss, containing eighty acres and seventy one hundredths of an acre, according to the official survey of the land. You claim that this patent was issued to Jasper H. Harvey, the assignee of Ish - Ke - Min- Che, the representative of Me - Shune - Tubbee, an evidence of his having taken advantage of the fourteenth article of the treaty of 1830? A Yes sir.

The above described paper offered in evidence, marked Exhibit B, filed and made a part of the records in this case.

Q Are you married? A Yes sir .
Q What is your wife's name? A Mollie Irons.
Q What is her age? A She is 47.
Q Do you make any claim for her? A No sir.
Q She is a white woman? A Yes sir.
Q Have you any children under twenty-one years of age and unmarried for whom you now desire to make application? A Yes sir, five.
Q What do you claim these children to be? A Indians.
Q What kind? A Mississippi Choctaws.
Q Their claim has the same basis as yours? A Yes sir .
Q What are their names and ages? A The oldest one is 17. Carrie B. Irons.

John C. Irons testimony, page 2 (MCR 612, Fold3 image 54729132): the Me-shune-tubbee relationship, the patent offered as Exhibit B, and his wife and children.

4. Exhibits in the case file

The consolidated case lists these exhibits:

- Affidavits of W. A. Rankin, Ann Roby, J. Selph, Melvina Roberts, John W. Roberts and John C. Irons.
- Certificate (patent) issued by President Franklin Pierce to Jasper H. Harvey.
- Marriage records: John Irons – Mollie McKinney; Jackson V. Mackey – Carrie Irons; John Roberts – Pheobe A. McKee; Herman McKinney – Leila Roberts; William McKinney – Lillie Roberts; John E. Irons – Ida Newman; J. H. Roberts – Emily Tillis.
- Birth of Annie Elvira Mackey, 23 April 1902, Dibble; births of Charley McKinney and Minnie Attie McKinney (supplemental application).
- Records relating to the claims of Me-shune-tubbee (Commission research, 1903).

5. The government’s findings

The patent’s Me-shune-tubbee was a child

The decision cites the Claimants’ Brief and Evidence in *Choctaw Nation v. United States*, Court of Claims No. 12742, Vol. 1, pages 570 and 590, and the 1843 hearing before Commissioners Tyler, Gaines and Rush (appointed under the Act of 23 August 1842). That record shows the Me-shune-tubbee of the patent was under ten years old at the date of the treaty. He was represented by his mother, Ta-min-cha; his father had died the previous winter; he was present at the hearing. Scrip was issued, and the 1853 patent was issued in place of the scrip. The 12 January 1903 letter names his father as Ta-namp-ha-tubbee.

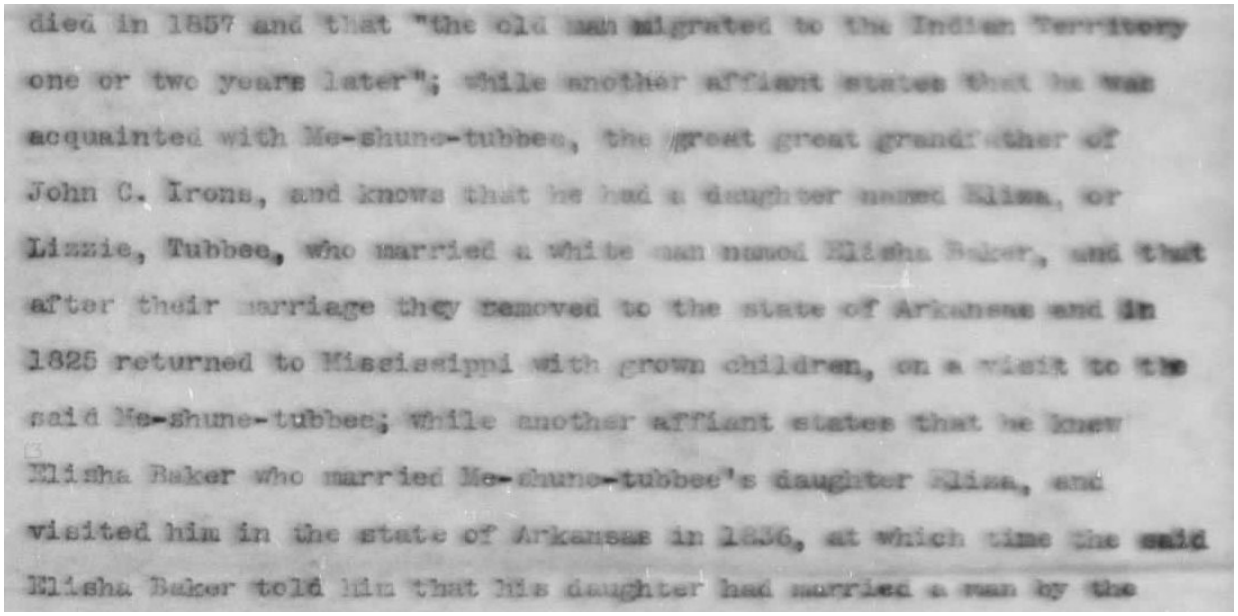
John C. Irons was about 50, so his great-great-grandfather had to be well over ten in 1830. The Indian Office report of 10 August 1904 repeats this: Me-shune-tubbee was a child of ten in 1830, his father died in 1842, and "three generations" separate him from a man born in 1851. It spells the representative "Ish-te-win-cha" and dates the patent "April 13, 1853."

The affidavits describe a different, older man

The decision summarizes the applicants' own affidavits. Taken together, they describe a Me-shune-tubbee who already had grown grandchildren in 1825:

- One affiant (Ann Roby): Me-shune-tubbee's wife died in 1857, and "the old man migrated to the Indian Territory one or two years later." Her handwritten affidavit actually reads "about 1837," so the decision appears to misread the year (see Part V).
- Another: he knew Me-shune-tubbee, "the great great grandfather of John C. Irons," who had a daughter Eliza, or Lizzie, Tubbee. She married a white man named Elisha Baker. They moved to Arkansas and in 1825 came back to Mississippi with grown children to visit Me-shune-tubbee.
- Another: he knew Elisha Baker, who married Me-shune-tubbee's daughter Eliza, and visited him in Arkansas in 1836 (James Selph; his handwritten affidavit reads 1836 or 1830). Baker told him his daughter had married a man named John Irons and moved to Texas.

From this the Commission concluded that "the Me-shune-tubbee to whom the patent herewith filed was issued, was not the Me-shune-tubbee through whom the applicants claim."


died in 1857 and that "the old man migrated to the Indian Territory one or two years later"; while another affiant states that he was acquainted with Me-shune-tubbee, the great great grandfather of John C. Irons, and knows that he had a daughter named Eliza, or Lizzie, Tubbee, who married a white man named Elisha Baker, and that after their marriage they removed to the state of Arkansas and in 1825 returned to Mississippi with grown children, on a visit to the said Me-shune-tubbee; while another affiant states that he knew Elisha Baker who married Me-shune-tubbee's daughter Eliza, and visited him in the state of Arkansas in 1836, at which time the said Elisha Baker told him that his daughter had married a man by the

Decision of 27 April 1903, page 4 (MCR 611, Fold3 image 54728794).

Other men with similar names

The Commission searched its records for similar names. It found a Mish-oon-tubbe in a list of "Twenty-five cases fully adjudicated by Commissioners Tyler, Gaines and Rush, 3d June, 1843" (the typescript may read 1845) (Court of Claims brief, Vol. 1, page 540). He was a head of family at the treaty, with two children over ten (Mah-la-ho-nah and Le-ash-in-tubbe) and one under ten. It said nothing in the testimony tied him to the applicants. It then listed these men:

Name as written	Record	Family in 1830s	Company
Meshoontabe	Article 19 beneficiary; awarded the W½ of Sec. 9, T17, R18E; lived on the Tombigbee River	15 persons	Moshobanowa

Name as written	Record	Family in 1830s	Company
Meshonatubbee	Article 19 beneficiary; NW¼ Sec. 22, T15, R19E; lived on Sukenatcha Creek	4 persons	Jeremiah Folsom
Measonatubba	Removed west by the government	4 persons	Mussalaka
Mishuntubby	Removed west	1 male over 25	Mussalaka
Measontubbe	Removed west	5 persons	Toblah
Mishuntubbee	Removed west	2 persons	Hoshinshabona
Measintubbee	Removed west	5 persons	Punasa Carnes
Mishontubbee	Removed west	9 persons, incl. one female over 50	Nashbanowa
Measintubbee	Removed west	4 persons	Bill Fry
Me-a-sheen-tubbee	Removed west	1 male under 10	Lawson

Decision pages 5–6 (54728829, 54728832). The highlighted man matches the tree's Me Shune Tubbee (I880) and his tract.

The Commission held that even if the applicants descended from either Article 19 man, they could get no Article 14 rights, and the same was true of the men removed west. Because Harvey was a white man and held the patent as assignee, it reasoned that Harvey might be an ancestor or a collateral relative of the applicants, which would explain how they came to hold the original patent. None of the named ancestors had signified to Col. William Ward, the Choctaw agent, an intention to stay under Article 14, or claimed before the commissions of 1837 and 1842.

6. The Me-shune-tubbee land patent — located

Field	BLM General Land Office record
Patentees	JASPER H HARVEY; ISH TE MIN CHE
Date	15 April 1853 (the 1904 Indian Office report says 13 April)
Document / authority	Document 850C; Choctaw scrip under the Act of 23 August 1842; State Volume patent
Accession	**STA-MS2590__.457**
Land	Choctaw Meridian: T16N R7E Sec. 26, SE¼NE¼; and T16N R8E Sec. 17, NE¼SW¼. Total 80.71 acres.
County	Attala County, Mississippi (Columbus land district)
Related patent	Jasper H. Harvey alone, 1 October 1859, document 36576, accession STA-MS1560__.141: T16N R8E Sec. 17, SW¼SW¼, Attala County — next to the 1853 tract.

The patent's legal description matches exactly what John C. Irons read into the record in 1900. Searches of the GLO index for "Me shune tubbee" and "Ish te min che" as separate names returned nothing; the patent is indexed only under Harvey and Ish te min che together.

This tract is **not** the land in the tree's Me Shune Tubbee (I880) record. I880's land is the W½ of Sec. 9, T17N R18E, in Lowndes County, about 65 miles to the east — the Article 19 reserve of "Meshoontabe," sold in 1832 to Rev. Thomas Davis and patented in 1849. The 1853 Attala patent belongs to the child Me-shune-tubbee and his mother.

Search the GLO record by accession number at glorecords.blm.gov. The patent image can be viewed and downloaded from the record page.

7. How the records line up with the tree

No tree records have been changed. Rows shaded orange are conflicts.

Tree ID	Person	What the Dawes file says	Tree now / note
I880	Me Shune Tubbee	Applicants' ancestor: older man with a married daughter Eliza; wife died about 1837 (the decision misread it as 1857); he went to I.T. one or two years later; affiants place him in Pontotoc County. The Commission matched none of the records to him for certain.	Tree's W½ Sec. 9 tract matches the Article 19 "Meshoontabe" (15 in family, Tombigbee River, Moshobanowa's company).
I881 / I882	Ta Namp Ha Tubbee / Ta Min Cha	Father (died winter 1842) and mother of the **child** Me-shune-tubbee of the 1853 patent.	CONFLICT if meant as I880's family. In the tree they form F324 with no children, so they are not linked to I880. Ish-te-min-che, the patent "representative," may be Ta-min-cha.
I879	Polly Rickman (wife of Elisha Baker)	Affidavits and James Henry Roberts name Elisha Baker's wife as Eliza (Lizzie) Tubbee, daughter of Me-shune-tubbee.	CONFLICT: tree names her Polly, from the 5 May 1816 deed of "Elisha & Polly" Baker. A family account makes her a Rickman, sister of Lucy Rickman Henderson (Part II).
I878	Elisha Baker	Moved to Arkansas after marriage; visited Mississippi 1825; seen in Arkansas about 1836 (or 1830). Melvina Roberts: he and his wife raised "about thirteen or fourteen" children.	Large family agrees: Walter Crow (1806) lists a wife, eleven children and one enslaved person by Dec 1803. Tree death 1821–26; the 1830s sighting fits his son Elisha (born about 1799), aged 30–40 in Hempstead County in 1830.

Tree ID	Person	What the Dawes file says	Tree now / note
I897 / I937	John Irons / Elisha Irons	John C. Irons says his father and grandfather went to I.T. in the late 1830s, returned to Mississippi, and his father came to Texas about 1846–47.	CONFLICT: tree has John Irons in Austin's Colony 1824–26, dead before 1830, and Elisha born about 1826 in Coahuila y Tejas.
I902	John Christopher Irons	Age 49 in July 1900; born Texas; father Elisha, mother Delilah; Parker, Shackelford and Trinity Counties, Texas.	Agrees with birth 1 Jul 1851. Residences can be added.
I903	Molly M. McKinney	Wife Mollie, 47 (born about 1853); marriage license John Irons – Mollie McKinney.	Tree birth May 1856 — minor age difference.
I905	"?"	**William N. Irons**, age 9 (born about 1891).	Unnamed in tree; the file supplies his name.
I906	Roxie A. Irons	Age 7 in July 1900 (born about 1893).	Tree May 1895 — minor conflict.
I912 / I847	Carrie B. Irons / Jackson V. Mackey	Married (license in file; photostat requested 1942).	Agrees.
I934	Annie Elvira Mackey	Born 23 April 1902, Dibble.	Tree has "after 1902"; exact date now known.
I907 / I909	John Edward Irons / Loyd Irons	Age 25; son of John and Mollie; married Ida Newman; minor son Loyd.	Agrees (born 1 Sep 1874).
I807	John W Roberts	Age 45; father Elias, mother Patsy; from Comanche County, Texas; wife named Frances in testimony; marriage exhibit John Roberts – Pheobe A. McKee.	CONFLICT: wife Frances vs. Phoebe A. McKee; tree has Phoebe A. Mackey (I808).
I809 / I846	Lelia Belle Roberts / Herman S McKinney	Leila Belle married Herman McKinney; son Charley McKinney (I933).	Agrees.
I810 / I811	Lily Ellis Roberts / William Samual McKinney	Lillie married William McKinney; daughter Minnie Attie McKinney (I932).	Agrees.
I483	James Henry Roberts	Age 44; parents Elias and Patsy Ann; wife Emily (Tillis); eight minor children named.	Agrees. Child ages: Johnnie 12 vs. tree I678 born Aug 1887, only five months after Julia (Mar 1887) — check.
I627	William A Roberts	Birth papers for a son born 12 February 1902.	Same date as tree.
I875 / I2058	Polly Baker / Polly Irons	Selph: "Polly Baker afterwards Irons afterward Smith." Melvina Roberts: Polly Irons later married John C. Smith; their daughter was Patsy Ann Alabama Smith.	Likely duplicate: Polly Baker (wife of John Irons) and Polly Irons (wife of John D. Smith, mother of Patsy) appear to be one woman. Second husband's middle initial differs (C. vs. D.).
I832	Mulvina (Lavina) Shannon	Affiant Melvina Roberts, 75, Purcell; born and raised in Arkansas; knew "Eliza Tubbee" in Sevier County.	Agrees: widow of Elias Roberts (married 1860) and stepmother of John W. and James H. Roberts. Born 15 Oct 1826 (73 in 1900). In Sevier County, Arkansas, 1842–1850.

Part II — Claims register

Each claim made in the testimony (12 July 1900) and the affidavits (30 June – 3 July 1900), with what the records show. Shaded rows are claims contradicted by records.

#	Claim	Made by	What the records show	Finding
1	The applicants descend from Me-shune-tubbee, a Mississippi Choctaw.	All four applicants; Rankin; Selph; M. Roberts	No record names their ancestor. The Commission found the evidence insufficient and refused all 21 applicants; affirmed 1904; reopening denied 1907.	Not supported
2	Me-shune-tubbee's daughter Eliza (Lizzie) Tubbee married Elisha Baker.	M. Roberts; Rankin; Selph; Roby; J. H. Roberts	Elisha Baker's 5 May 1816 deed in Washington Co., Missouri Territory, is by "Elisha & Polly" his wife. No record names an Eliza. A family account makes Polly a Rickman, sister of Lucy Rickman Henderson. See "Polly Baker's maiden name," below.	Contradicted
3	Eliza Tubbee was a full-blood Mississippi Choctaw known in Sevier County, Arkansas.	M. Roberts	Melvina did live in Sevier County (married there 1842; 1850 census), next to Hempstead County where the Bakers lived in 1821, so she could have known the Baker widow. The record names that widow Polly. Nothing shows Choctaw ancestry.	Not supported
4	Elisha and Eliza Baker raised 13 or 14 children, including Polly.	M. Roberts	Walter Crow testified on 26 June 1806 that by December 1803 Baker's household was a wife, eleven children and one enslaved person (American State Papers, Public Lands, Vol. II, p. 441). More children could have followed.	Supported (family size)
5	Polly Baker married John Irons; their children were Ed, Elisha and Elvira Irons.	M. Roberts; Selph	Agrees with the tree (F322) and with Elvira Irons Rankin's family records.	Supported
6	After John Irons died, Polly married John C. Smith; their daughter Patsy Ann Alabama Smith married Elias Roberts.	M. Roberts; Selph	Agrees with the tree (Patsy, I806, wife of Elias Roberts). The tree names the second husband John D. Smith.	Supported (name differs)
7	Me-shune-tubbee lived in Pontotoc County, Mississippi.	Rankin; Roby; Selph	Pontotoc County was formed in 1836 from Chickasaw land, not Choctaw. The Article 19 Meshoontabe of tree I880 lived on the Tombigbee in Lowndes Co.	Contradicted
8	Eliza and Elisha Baker visited Me-shune-tubbee about 1825 with grown children.	Roby	No record. Baker was in Arkansas in 1821 and dead by about 1826.	Not verified
9	Selph visited Elisha Baker in Arkansas about 1836 (or 1830).	Selph	The tree places Baker's death about 1821–26. A visit in the 1830s conflicts with that.	Contradicted
10	Baker said a daughter married John Irons and moved to Texas.	Selph	True in substance: John Irons was in Austin's Colony, Texas, by 1824. This was known within the family.	Consistent
11	Me-shune-tubbee's wife died in Mississippi about 1837; he moved to I.T. one or two years later.	Roby (handwritten "1837"; the Commission typed 1857)	No record.	Not verified

#	Claim	Made by	What the records show	Finding
12	John C. Irons's father and grandfather went to I.T. in the late 1830s, returned to Mississippi, and his father went to Texas about 1846–47.	John C. Irons	John Irons was in Texas by 1824 and dead before 1830. Elisha Irons was born about 1826 in Coahuila y Tejas and was in Bastrop Co., Texas, by 1846.	Contradicted
13	The 1853 patent to Jasper H. Harvey, assignee of Ish-te-min-che for Me-shune-tubbee, shows the ancestor's rights.	All applicants (exhibit)	The patent's Me-shune-tubbee was under ten in 1830, heard in 1843 with his mother Ta-min-cha; his father had died in 1842 (BLM STA-MS2590__.457; 1843 adjudication).	Contradicted
14	Blood quantum: John C. Irons 1/8 (father 1/4); John W. Roberts 1/16; John E. Irons "about 1/8."	Applicants	John C. Irons and John W. Roberts are the same generation from Polly Baker, so their fractions cannot differ. John E., John C.'s son, claims the same fraction as his father.	Inconsistent
15	W. A. Rankin is a great-grandson of Eliza Baker née Tubbee; his family is the one Rankin County, Mississippi, was named for.	Rankin	Rankin was a grandson of Polly Baker (son of Elvira Irons). Rankin County was named for Congressman Christopher Rankin; no tie to this family is shown. The Commission chart notes "names of these ancestors not given."	Not supported
16	Ann Roby was the slave of a Choctaw named Tonku[?] Bever in Pontotoc County and knew Me-shune-tubbee as a child.	Roby	Ann Roby, born about 1803, appears in no census or other record in Texas, Arkansas or Mississippi.	Not verified

Sources for each row are listed in Parts I, III and VI.

Elisha Baker's wife in other trees

Checked 21 November 2026. Compiled trees are not evidence, but they show where the "Eliza Tubbee" name comes from.

- **Records:** the only record naming Elisha Baker's wife is the 5 May 1816 deed of "Elisha Baker & Polly" to John Hutchings, Washington County, Missouri Territory. The household count comes from Walter Crow's 1806 testimony (wife, eleven children and one enslaved person by December 1803).
- **FamilySearch Family Tree:** Elisha Baker (L5XT-2ZV) has no wife attached. His life summary names her Polly from the 1816 deed. Polly Baker (N8M9-N1D), wife of John Irons and later John C. Smith, is linked to Elisha only.
- **Ancestry public member trees:** "Eliza 'Lizzie' Tubbee" as Elisha Baker's wife appears in about 47 trees. The dates disagree with each other: one gives her birth as 1787 in Mississippi, marriage 1810 and Elisha born 1785; another gives her birth as 1760 and Elisha born 1755. A third pairs "Eliza Tubbee" with an Elijah J. Baker. None of the entries checked cites a record earlier than the 1900 Dawes affidavits.
- **Why the tree versions fail:** a wife born in 1787 and married in 1810 could not be the mother of eleven children living by 1803, or of Polly, born about 1796.
- Web searches turned up no WikiTree, Geni or Find a Grave entry for this Elisha Baker.

Polly Baker’s maiden name: the Rickman evidence

No marriage record for Elisha Baker has been found. Greene County, Tennessee, marriages from 1780 to 1805 list other Bakers but no Elisha, and Virginia and North Carolina indexes for 1765–1800 have none. The maiden name comes from a family account instead, and the records place the Rickman family beside Elisha Baker at every stage.

The family account. *The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 2000), pp. 11-30 to 11-31, sketches Samuel Henderson (1759–1828) from Lucy Henderson Horton’s *Family History*, pp. 233–240. It says Henderson married Lucy Ryckman (Rickman) in Greene County, and that a sister of Lucy “married Elisha Baker,” a member of the convention that framed Tennessee’s first constitution. Brothers William and Abraham went to Missouri. The account is credited to Tapley Pyron, a Henderson grandson, in 1883, seventeen years before the Choctaw claim.

Date	Record	Source
22 Feb 1786	Samuel Henderson marries Lucy Rickman (“Richmon”), Greene County, North Carolina (now Tennessee). Horton gives 14 Mar 1785.	FamilySearch XZW2-RQJ; FamilySearch XZ72-TJ6
1787–1793	Elisha Baker holds North Carolina land grants in Greene County.	Tree I878
6 Feb 1796	Elisha Baker signs the Constitution of 1796 as a Greene County delegate, which confirms the account’s identification of him.	Signers, 1796
12 May 1797	William Richman marries Mary Hopkins, Greene County, Tennessee, possibly the brother William.	FamilySearch XZW2-Y98
1806	Elisha Baker, John Rickman and Abraham Rickman sign the Bellevue, Missouri, memorial together.	*Territorial Papers* XIII
29 Aug 1815	Elisha Baker Rickman born in Missouri, a Rickman nephew named for Elisha Baker. Married Rebecca Kellett, Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1841; children in 1860 include Rosannah and Bynam. Probably a son of Abraham Rickman and Rosanah Barbee (married 1803, Orange County, N.C.).	FamilySearch QVKL-MGQN; FamilySearch QG11-91JM; FamilySearch MHZ4-4CK; FamilySearch QP9K-DGH6
5 May 1816	Deed of “Elisha & Polly” Baker, Washington County, Missouri Territory.	Tree I878
22 Mar 1821	Elisha Baker sells Phillis, Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory.	Tree I878
30 Jul 1822	Abraham Rickman enters land at the Batesville office, Independence County, Arkansas Territory.	FamilySearch 62WV-D9D1
1830	Oliver Brewer, husband of Lucy’s daughter Mary Henderson, in Hempstead County; the account says they moved there from Missouri.	FamilySearch XHPX-8B5
1830	An Elisha Baker aged 30–40 heads a Hempstead County household: not the elder Elisha, but probably his son Elisha, born about 1799.	FamilySearch XHPX-8LN

Assessment: probable, not proven. The account was written down long before the Choctaw claim, has no Choctaw motive, names Elisha correctly as a 1796 delegate, and fits the records: the Rickmans moved from Greene County to Bellevue and on to Arkansas, and Henderson kin settled in Hempstead County with the Bakers. A Rickman boy born in Missouri in 1815 was named Elisha Baker, and the Bynum given name among the Missouri Rickmans matches the Henderson–Bynum marriages in the account. The tree now records her as Polly Rickman, with this account as the only source for the surname.

- CONFLICT: the same issue (p. 11-29) reprints an Ancestral File entry naming the wife “Mary Rickman,” born about 1777 and married about 1798. That is too late for the mother of Polly (born about 1796) or of eleven children by 1803. Polly is the usual nickname for Mary, and the 1816 deed names only one wife, so the tree treats Mary and Polly as the same woman and keeps the Ancestral File dates only as a conflict. Left as recorded.

- Texas: no Rickmans appear in Austin's Colony: none among the Old Three Hundred, the 1823 and 1825 Colorado District lists, or Texas indexes before 1843. The Rickmans stayed in Missouri and northern Arkansas while Polly and John Irons went on to Texas. The Texas General Land Office grant database was offline on 21 November 2026 and is still to be checked.

The Rickman family in the tree

The Henderson account names five brothers and sisters besides Polly. No record names their parents, so the tree links them through a placeholder father. Names link to each person's page in the tree, where the full evidence and research log are kept.

Person	Grade	Strongest evidence
Father Rickman (placeholder)	E	Family account only; parents not named in any record
Polly (Mary) Rickman Baker	C	1816 deed (Polly); family account (Rickman)
Lucy Rickman Henderson	B	Henderson family Bible; Greene County marriage, 1786
Abraham Rickman	C	Orange County, N.C., marriage, 1803; Bellevue memorial, 1806; Batesville land entry, 1822
William Rickman	D	Family account only
Tabitha Rickman	D	Family account only
Unnamed sister (Mrs. Tapley Bynum)	D	Family account only

Elisha C. Baker, born 1799, the son in the Ancestral File entry, is now in Elisha Baker's family (Elisha C. Baker), probably the Elisha Baker aged 30–40 in Hempstead County in 1830.

- Still needed: Horton's *Family History* itself, and Greene County marriage bonds before 1796 that are not in the online indexes.

Part III — The people behind the claim

Summary of the four affidavits

Affiant	Sworn	Key statements
W. A. Rankin, past 65, Houston	3 Jul 1900, Harris Co., Texas	Eliza Baker née Tubbee was his great-grandmother, and the same to the applicants. Me Shune Tubbee lived in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, and was a Choctaw; Elisha Baker married his daughter Eliza Tubbee. Says the Melvina Roberts affidavit is true. Rests on family tradition.
Ann Roby, past 97, former slave	3 Jul 1900, Harris Co., Texas (by her mark)	Was the slave of a Choctaw named Tonku[?] Bever in Pontotoc County; when Bever moved to Indian Territory he sold her to a Wilson on Chiwapa Creek. As a small child she knew Me Shune Tubbee; his daughter married Elisha Baker. Eliza Baker and her husband visited him about 1825 with grown children. His wife died in Mississippi about **1837**, and he moved to Indian Territory one or two years later.
James Selph, born 1810 in Mississippi	3 Jul 1900, Harris Co., Texas	Knew Me Shune Tubbee in Pontotoc County as a boy; his daughter Lizzia or Eliza married Elisha Baker. Visited Baker in Arkansas about 1836 (could be read 1830); Baker said a daughter had married John Irons and moved to Texas. Met Mrs. Irons in Texas about 1842, when Irons was dead and she had married a Smith. Says Polly Baker, “afterwards Irons afterward Smith,” was the mother of Elisha Irons, Elvira Rankin née Irons, and the Roberts brothers’ mother.
Melvina Roberts, 75, Purcell, I.T.	30 Jun 1900, Southern District, I.T.	Born and raised in Arkansas; knew Eliza Tubbee in Sevier County, Arkansas, who said she was the daughter of Me Shune Tubbee. Eliza and Elisha Baker raised 13 or 14 children, including Polly, who married John Irons (“Ed” struck through); their children were Ed, Elisha and Elvira Irons. Elisha married a Butler; their son is John C. Irons. After John Irons died, Polly married John C. Smith; their daughter Patsy Ann Alabama Smith married Elias Roberts.

Affiants

Melvina Roberts — affidavit 30 June 1900, Southern District, I.T.

- The widow of Elias Roberts (tree I832, Mulvina or Lavina, née Shannon). Born 15 October 1826 in Arkansas, so about 73 in 1900; her affidavit says 75. She married (1) John W. Robbins, 14 August 1842, Sevier County, Arkansas; (2) a Bowers (Lavinia Bowers, 24, in Sevier County in the 1850 census); and (3) Elias Roberts in 1860. She drew his Mexican War widow’s pension.
- She was stepmother of applicants John W. and James H. Roberts, whose mother Patsy died in 1859, and step-grandmother of the other Roberts applicants.
- Her typed “General Affidavit” was the only witness paper the applicants brought to the 12 July hearings. Page 2, with her signature and notary, has not been found.
- Her own years in Sevier County fit her statement that she knew the Baker family there. The details she gives about Polly Baker, John Irons, the Irons children and the Smith marriage agree with the records; the Tubbee name and Choctaw descent do not.

W. A. (William Allen) Rankin — affidavit 3 July 1900, Houston

- Age past 65, of Houston. He is the tree’s I1946, born about 1835, son of James M. Rankin and Elvira Irons (I1954).
- That makes him a first cousin of applicant John C. Irons and a half-first cousin of John W. and James H. Roberts. He could have claimed through the same ancestor himself.

- He was the notary's brother-in-law, and in 1880 they lived next door (same census page, 241D, Precinct 6, Harris County).
- His statement rests on "the tradition of the family" and endorses a copy of Melvina Roberts's affidavit sworn three days earlier in Indian Territory.

Ann Roby — statement 3 July 1900, Houston (signed by mark)

- Described as a former slave, past 97 (born about 1803). Said she was the slave of a Choctaw, Tonku[?] Bever, in Pontotoc County, later sold to a Wilson on Chiwapa Creek.
- No Ann Roby (or Robey, Raby, Robie, Annie, Anna) of that age appears in any 1850–1910 census or other indexed record in Texas, Arkansas or Mississippi. No tie to Elisha Baker, who is recorded selling one enslaved girl, Phillis (about 13), in Hempstead County in 1821.

James Selph — affidavit 3 July 1900, Houston

- Said he was born in Mississippi in 1810 and knew Me-shune-tubbee in Pontotoc County as a boy.
- No James Selph or Self born about 1810 appears in any Texas, Arkansas, Missouri or Mississippi census from 1850 to 1900, and none lived in Harris County. A James Selph born 1812 in Georgia lived in Pontotoc County in 1870 with children born in Alabama; he does not fit.
- A Lewis Self and probably a William Self signed the 1806 Bellevue, Missouri, petition alongside Elisha Baker. A Self family from Baker's neighborhood could explain the name, but no link to a James has been found.

The notary

I. R. (Isaac Robert) McCasland — notary public, Harris County, Texas

- Swore in Rankin, Roby and Selph in Houston on 3 July 1900.
- Married Sarah A. Rankin, 24 June 1869, Montgomery County, Texas (FamilySearch Q2ZY-62MH).
- His wife, Sarah Edalin (Adaline) McCasland, born 16 March 1850, died 16 June 1922 in Houston. Her death certificate names her mother "Alvira Iron" (FamilySearch K3CJ-BYF). She is the Adaline Rankin in the 1850 Polk County household of James M. and Elvira Rankin (FamilySearch MXLG-4XD) and the 1860 Grimes County household (FamilySearch MXFF-F9K) — the tree's I2039.
- 1880: Isaac R. McCasland, carpenter, 30, and Wm. A. Rankin, 45, on the same census page in Precinct 6, Harris County (FamilySearch MFNJ-DM6, FamilySearch MFNJ-H6M).
- Died 15 July 1908, Houston; buried Hollywood Cemetery (FamilySearch QP7Q-324M).
- Relationship: brother-in-law of witness W. A. Rankin; husband of a first cousin of applicant John C. Irons.

The attorneys

J. W. (John W.) Cherryholmes — attorney, Purcell, I.T.

- Born November 1855 in Texas; in the 1900 census of the Chickasaw Nation with wife Alice (Southward) and six children, the elder ones born in Texas (FamilySearch MSRT-RYC). Later registered to vote at Lawton (FamilySearch D9PY-J43Z).
- Represented the Irons and Roberts applicants on 12 July 1900. Asked to file affidavits afterwards to show "his blood as a Mississippi Choctaw. Proof of his ancestry" (54729216). Mailed John C. Irons's affidavit on 17 July (54728852).
- Represented Henry O. Bishop of Dolberg, I.T., the next day, 13 July 1900: born in Lamar County, Texas, never lived in Mississippi, on no tribal roll, claimed "about an eighth" because "They said I

had a right to.” Cherryholmes again asked for time to file more evidence; refused 14 October 1902 (Fold3 file 98866553).

- Testified at Atoka, 4 December 1900, in the Chickasaw case of Reuben Goins, saying Goins’s name was “just included” in a Choctaw-by-blood petition (Fold3 file 63721030).
- No family tie to the claimants has been found.

James A. Cotner — attorney, Ardmore, I.T.

- Filed the 20 June 1906 motion to reopen. Denied 16 January 1907 because it was “not supported by any affidavit” and was “the mere expression of the opinion of the attorney” (54729625).

Jasper H. Harvey — patentee, 1853

- Assignee of Ish-te-min-che for the child Me-shune-tubbee (BLM STA-MS2590__.457); also patented adjoining land in 1859 (STA-MS1560__.141). The Commission guessed he might be an ancestor or relative of the applicants, which would explain how they held the original patent. No such tie has been found.

Part IV — How the claim was put together

How Mississippi Choctaw claims worked

- The Curtis Act (28 June 1898) and the Act of 31 May 1900 directed the Dawes Commission to identify Mississippi Choctaws entitled under Article 14 of the 1830 treaty. Claimants had to prove descent from someone who had qualified under Article 14.
- Applicants appeared in person and were examined under oath; a stenographer recorded the testimony and papers were marked as exhibits. The applicant was then usually given 10 or 15 days to file more written evidence. The decision was mailed later and the record went to the Secretary of the Interior.
- Claimants usually had attorneys or claim agents, commonly paid with a share of any land won; contracts in the Winton case (U.S. Supreme Court, 1921) ran at “one-half of the value of the net recovery.” The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations paid their own firm, Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, to oppose claims.
- About 25,000 people applied; 2,534 were identified and about 1,578 enrolled with land. In 1900 and early 1901, only six or seven of 6,000–8,000 applicants were enrolled. The Choctaw Nation describes “a flurry of fraudulent claims by white people who lied” to obtain allotments.

When each piece of evidence appeared

Date	Event	Source
30 Jun 1900	Melvina Roberts swears her typed “General Affidavit” in the Southern District of Indian Territory.	Affidavit image, Part V
3 Jul 1900	In Houston, notary I. R. McCasland (the claimants’ kin) swears W. A. Rankin, Ann Roby and James Selph. Rankin endorses an attached copy of Melvina’s affidavit.	Affidavit images, Part V
12 Jul 1900	Hearings at Muskogee. Each applicant offers only Melvina Roberts’s affidavit and marriage papers (John C. Irons and John Roberts also the patent). Asked for other papers, John C. Irons names only his marriage certificate. The Houston statements are not offered.	54729132, 54729216, 54729825, 54728781
12 Jul 1900	Attorney Cherryholmes asks leave to file further affidavits; granted 15 days (Irons, J. H. Roberts) or 10 days (John Roberts).	54729216, 54729825
13 Jul 1900	Cherryholmes represents Henry O. Bishop of Dolberg in a similar Texas-born claim.	Fold3 file 98866553
17–20 Jul 1900	Cherryholmes mails an affidavit of John C. Irons for the John Edward Irons file; acknowledged 20 July.	54728852
After 12 Jul 1900	The Rankin/Roby and Selph statements enter the record; the later case index lists them as “copies.”	54729244, 54729256
12 Oct 1900	Commission replies to Cherryholmes that the applicants, who are “very anxious,” have not yet been decided.	MCR 491, 613

The Houston statements were sworn nine days before the hearing but were not handed in until afterwards, following the attorney’s request for more time.

Part V — The affidavits

Copies stamped “Reproduced at the National Archives,” as posted to Ancestry public member tree 4698068 (shared 25 September 2019), and a Commission genealogy chart posted to Ancestry tree 1609858 (shared 11 May 2012). Transcriptions keep the original spelling; [?] marks an uncertain reading. Margin notes added by the uploaders are not part of the record.

W. A. Rankin and Ann Roby — page 1

Image: Ancestry public tree 4698068, WA Rankin affidavit pg 1. Original in NARA, MCR 612.

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State of Texas } In the Matter of the
County of Harris } application of John O
Irons John W & James H Roberts for
enrollment as Mississippi Choctaw
Indians W A Rankin a resident of the
City of Houston County of Harris State
of Texas after first being by me duly
sworn on his oath doth say that
he is past sixty five years old that
Eliza Baker nee Tubbee was his great
grand mother and that she bore the
same relations relation to the
applicants that it is the tradition
of the family and that he knows
that Mr Shem Tubbee was a Mississippi
Choctaw Indian from hearing the
old residents of Texas and the members
of his family who formerally lived
in Mississippi and after whom
Rankin County was named often
talk of the matter And that it is part
of the family history that they was
part Choctaw Indian and he further
states that he knows from the old
members of his family that Mr
Shem Tubbee lived in Pontatoc County
Mississippi that he was a Choctaw
Indian and that Elisha Baker married
his daughter Eliza Tubbee and he
further states that the Copy of Mrs
Melvina Roberts affidavit hereto
attached is true to the best of his

Rankin County Mississippi was named in honor of Congressman Christopher Rankin

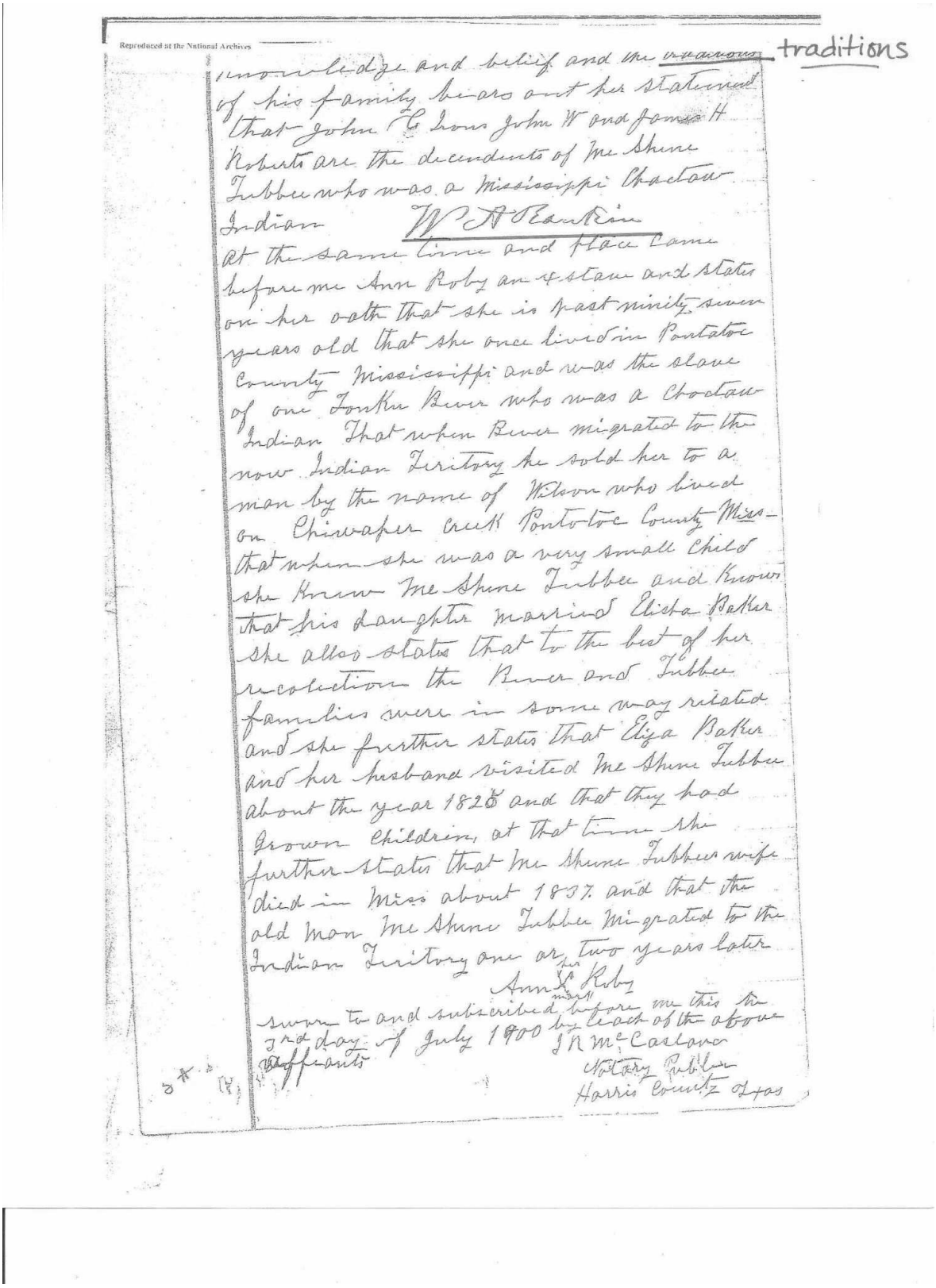
W. A. Rankin and Ann Roby — page 1 — transcription

State of Texas } In the Matter of the
County of Harris } application of John C. Irons John W & James H Roberts for enrollment as Mississippi Choctaw Indians.

W. A. Rankin a resident of the City of Houston County of Harris State of Texas after first being by me duly sworn on his oath doth say that he is past sixty five years old that Eliza Baker nee Tubbee was his great grand mother and that she bore the same relations relation to the applicants. That it is the tradition of the family and that he knows that Me Shune Tubbee was a Mississippi Choctaw Indian from hearing the old residents of Texas and the members of his family who formerally lived in Mississippi and after whom Rankin County was named often talk of the matter. And that it is part of the family history that they was part Choctaw Indian and he further states that he knows from the old members of his family that Me Shune Tubbee lived in Pontatoc County Mississippi that he was a Choctaw Indian and that Elisha Baker married his daughter Eliza Tubbee and he further states that the Copy of Mrs Melvina Roberts affidavit hereto attached is true to the best of his

W. A. Rankin and Ann Roby — page 2

Image: Ancestry public tree 4698068, WA Rankin affidavit pg 2. Original in NARA, MCR 612.



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knowledge and belief and the traditions traditions
of his family bears out her statement
that John C Irons John W and James H
Roberts are the descendents of Me Shune
Tubbee who was a Mississippi Choctaw
Indian W A Rankin
At the same time and place came
before me Ann Roby an [illegible] and states
on her oath that she is past ninety seven
years old that she once lived in Pontotoc
County Mississippi and was the slave
of one Tonkin Benn who was a Choctaw
Indian That when Benn migrated to the
new Indian Territory he sold her to a
man by the name of Wilson who lived
on Chickasaw Creek Pontotoc County Miss-
that when she was a very small child
she knew Me Shune Tubbee and knew
that his daughter married Eliza Baker
she also states that to the best of her
recollection the Benn and Tubbee
families were in some way related
and she further states that Eliza Baker
and her husband visited Me Shune Tubbee
about the year 1828 and that they had
grown children, at that time she
further states that Me Shune Tubbees wife
died in Miss about 1837 and that the
old man Me Shune Tubbee migrated to the
Indian Territory one or two years later
Ann [illegible] Roby mark
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the
3rd day of July 1900 by each of the above
affiants
J R McCarlan
Notary Public
Harris County Texas

W. A. Rankin and Ann Roby — page 2 — transcription

knowledge and belief and the traditions of his family bears out her statement that John C Irons John W and James H Roberts are the decendents of Me Shune Tubbee who was a Mississippi Choctaw Indian.

[signed] W A Rankin

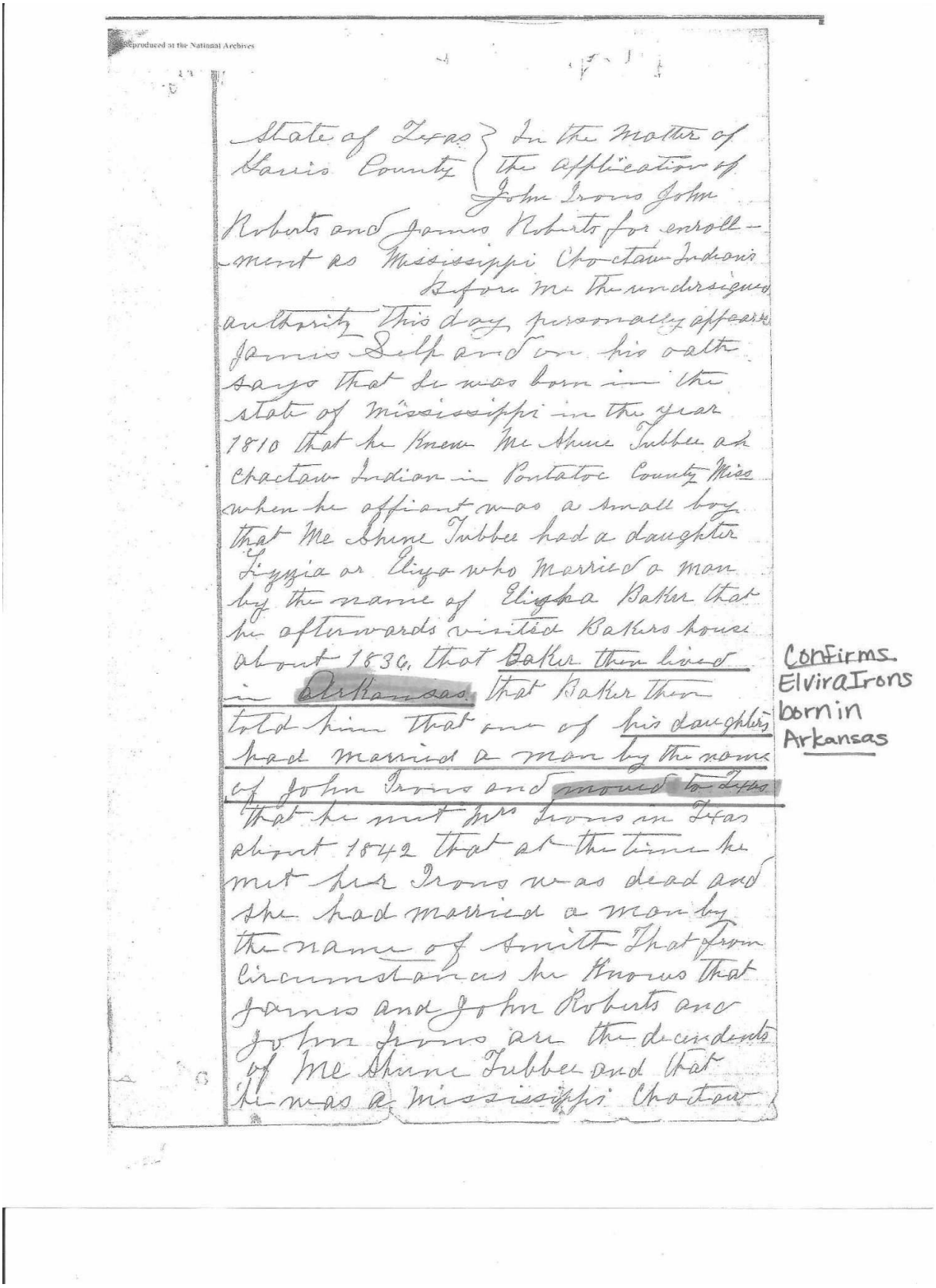
At the same time and place came before me Ann Roby an ex slave and states on her oath that she is past ninety seven years old that she once lived in Pontatoc County Mississippi and was the slave of one Tonku [?] Bever who was a Choctaw Indian. That when Bever migrated to the now Indian Teritory he sold her to a man by the name of Wilson who lived on Chiwapa [?] Creek Pontotoc County Miss. that when she was a very small child she knew Me Shune Tubbee and knows that his daughter married Elisha Baker. She also states that to the best of her recolection the Bever and Tubbee families were in some way related and she further states that Eliza Baker and her husband visited Me Shune Tubbee about the year 1825 *[5 written over 6]* and that they had grown children at that time. She further states that Me Shune Tubbees wife died in Miss about 1837 and that the old man Me Shune Tubbee migrated to the Indian Teritory one or two years later.

Ann *[her X mark]* Roby

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 3rd day of July 1900 by each of the above affiants.
I R McCasland, Notary Public, Harris County Texas

James Selph — page 1

Image: Ancestry public tree 4698068, MCR 612 Selph affidavit page 1. Original in NARA, MCR 612.



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State of Texas } In the Matter of
Harris County } the application of
John Irons John
Roberts and James Roberts for enroll-
ment as Mississippi Choctaw Indians

Before me the undersigned
authority this day personally appears
James Selph and on his oath
says that he was born in the
state of Mississippi in the year
1810 that he knew Mr Shine Tubbee a
Choctaw Indian in Pontotoc County Miss
when he affiant was a small boy
that Mr Shine Tubbee had a daughter
Lizzia or Eliza who married a man
by the name of Elisha Baker that
he afterwards visited Bakers house
about 1836, that Baker then lived
in Arkansas that Baker then
told him that one of his daughters
had married a man by the name
of John Irons and moved to Texas
that he met Mrs Irons in Texas
about 1842 that at the time he
met her Irons was dead and
she had married a man by
the name of Smith That from
circumstances he knows that
James and John Roberts and
John Irons are the decendents
of Mr Shine Tubbee and that
he was a Mississippi Choctaw

Confirms Elvira Irons born in Arkansas

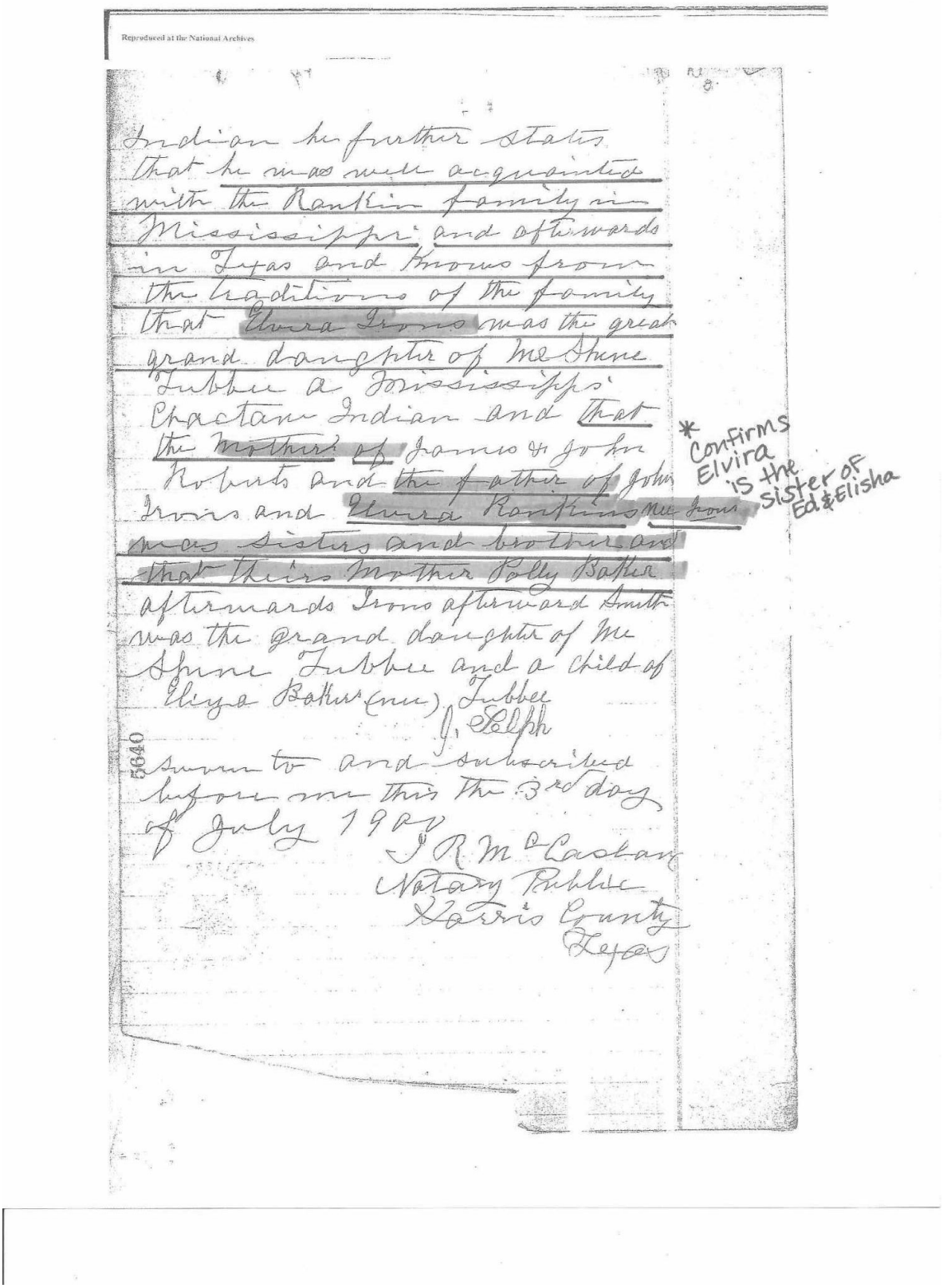
James Selph — page 1 — transcription

State of Texas } In the Matter of
Harris County } the Application of John Irons John Roberts and James Roberts for enrollment as Mississippi Choctaw Indians.

Before me the undersigned authority this day personally appeared James Selph and on his oath says that he was born in the state of Mississippi in the year 1810 that he knew Me Shune Tubbee as [a] Choctaw Indian in Pontotoc County Miss when he affiant was a small boy that Me Shune Tubbee had a daughter Lizzia or Eliza who married a man by the name of Elisha Baker that he afterwards visited Bakers house about 1836 *[or 1830]* that Baker then lived in Arkansas that Baker then told him that one of his daughters had married a man by the name of John Irons and moved to Texas that he met Mrs Irons in Texas about 1842 that at the time he met her Irons was dead and she had married a man by the name of Smith That from circumstances he knows that James and John Roberts and John Irons are the decendents of Me Shune Tubbee and that he was a Mississippi Choctaw

James Selph — page 2

Image: Ancestry public tree 4698068, James Selph affidavit pg 2. Original in NARA, MCR 612.



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Indian he further states that he was well acquainted with the Rankin family in Mississippi and afterwards in Texas and knows from the traditions of the family that Elvira Irons was the great grand daughter of Mr Shene Tubbee a Mississippi Choctaw Indian and that the Mother of James & John Roberts and the father of John Irons and Elvira Rankins nee Irons was Sisters and brother and that their Mother Polly Bather afterwards Irons afterward Smith was the grand daughter of Mr Shene Tubbee and a child of Eliza Bather (nee) Tubbee

J. Selph

5640

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 3rd day of July 1907

J R McCastlan
Notary Public
Harris County
Texas

* Confirms Elvira is the sister of Ed & Elisha

James Selph — page 2 — transcription

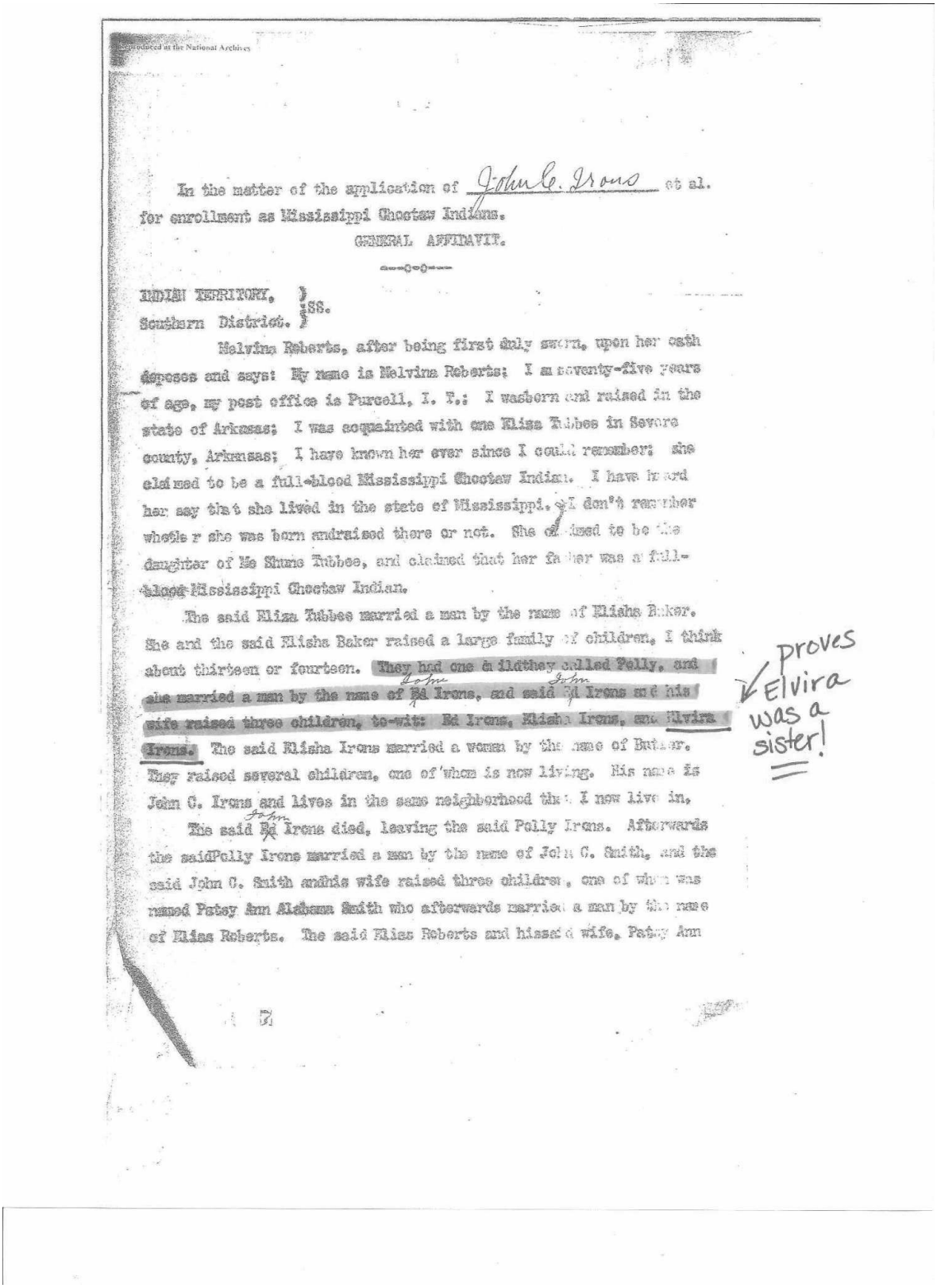
Indian he further states that he was well acquainted with the Rankin family in Mississippi and afterwards in Texas and knows from the traditions of the family that Elvira Irons was the great grand daughter of Me Shune Tubbee a Mississippi Choctaw Indian and that the mother of James & John Roberts and the father of John Irons and Elvira Rankin nee Irons was sisters and brother and that theirs mother Polly Baker afterwards Irons afterward Smith was the grand daughter of Me Shune Tubbee and a child of Eliza Baker (nee) Tubbee.

[signed] J. Selph

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 3rd day of July 1900
I R McCasland, Notary Public, Harris County Texas

Melvina Roberts — page 1 (page 2 not found)

Image: Ancestry public tree 4698068, Melvina Roberts affidavit pg 1. Original in NARA, MCR 612.



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In the matter of the application of John C. Irons et al.
for enrollment as Mississippi Choctaw Indians.

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

---o-o---

INDIAN TERRITORY, }
Southern District. } SS.

Melvina Roberts, after being first duly sworn, upon her oath deposes and says: My name is Melvina Roberts; I am seventy-five years of age, my post office is Purcell, I. T.; I was born and raised in the state of Arkansas; I was acquainted with one Eliza Tubbee in Sevare county, Arkansas; I have known her ever since I could remember; she claimed to be a full-blood Mississippi Choctaw Indian. I have heard her say that she lived in the state of Mississippi. I don't remember whether she was born andraised there or not. She claimed to be the daughter of Mo Shuma Tubbee, and claimed that her father was a full-blood Mississippi Choctaw Indian.

The said Eliza Tubbee married a man by the name of Elisha Baker. She and the said Elisha Baker raised a large family of children, I think about thirteen or fourteen. They had one child they called Polly, and she married a man by the name of Ed Irons, and said John Irons and his wife raised three children, to-wit: Ed Irons, Elisha Irons, and Elvira Irons. The said Elisha Irons married a woman by the name of Butler. They raised several children, one of whom is now living. His name is John C. Irons and lives in the same neighborhood that I now live in.

The said John Irons died, leaving the said Polly Irons. Afterwards the saidPolly Irons married a man by the name of John C. Smith, and the said John C. Smith andhis wife raised three children, one of whom was named Patsy Ann Alabama Smith who afterwards married a man by the name of Elias Roberts. The said Elias Roberts and hissaid wife, Patsy Ann

proves Elvira was a sister!

Melvina Roberts — page 1 (page 2 not found) — transcription

In the matter of the application of *John C. Irons* et al. for enrollment as Mississippi Choctaw Indians.
GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.
Indian Territory, Southern District. } ss.

Melvina Roberts, after being first duly sworn, upon her oath deposes and says: My name is Melvina Roberts; I am seventy-five years of age, my post office is Purcell, I. T.; I was born and raised in the state of Arkansas; I was acquainted with one Eliza Tubbee in Severe county, Arkansas; I have known her ever since I could remember; she claimed to be a full-blood Mississippi Choctaw Indian. I have heard her say that she lived in the state of Mississippi. I don't remember whether she was born and raised there or not. She claimed to be the daughter of Me Shune Tubbee, and claimed that her father was a full-blood Mississippi Choctaw Indian.

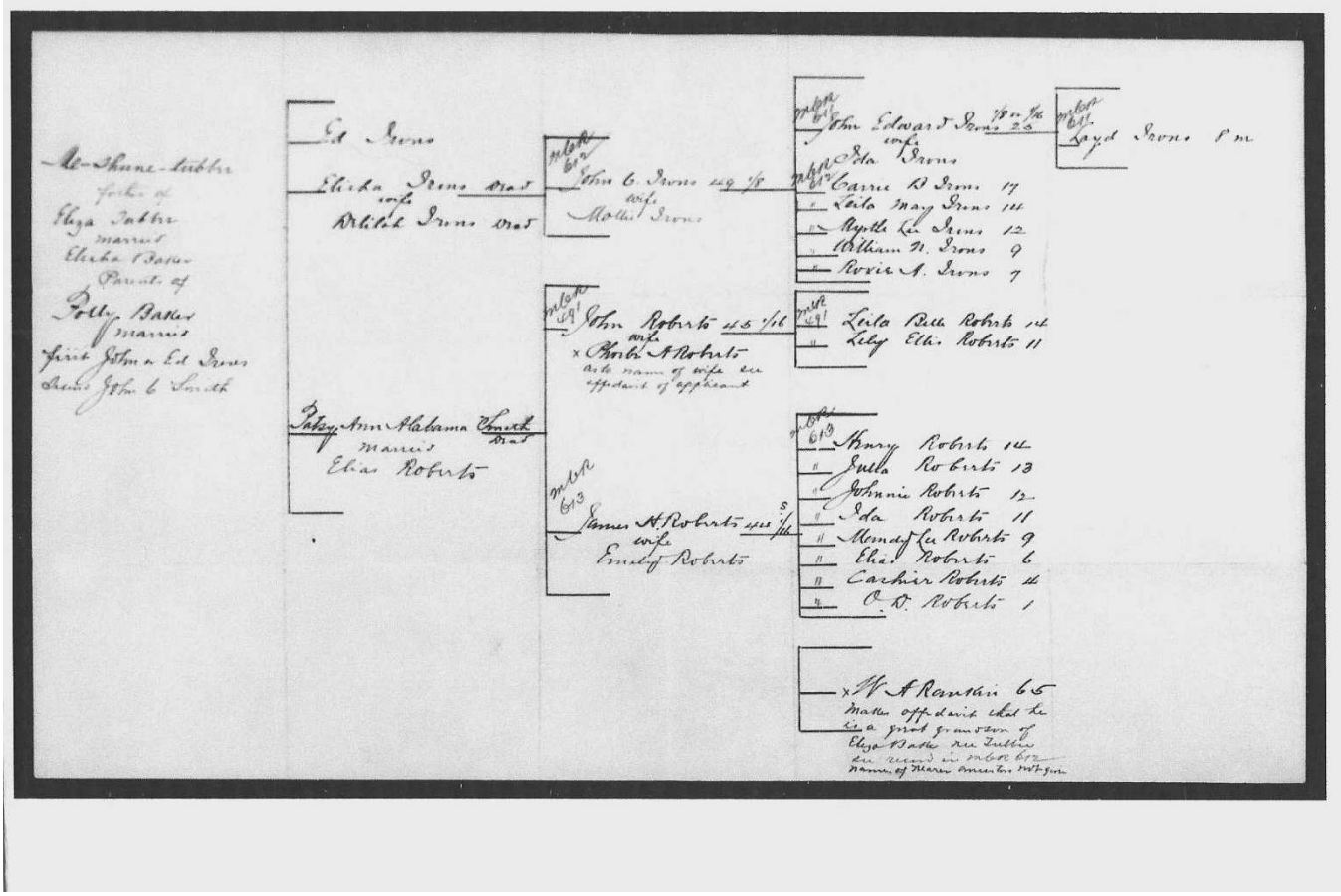
The said Eliza Tubbee married a man by the name of Elisha Baker. She and the said Elisha Baker raised a large family of children, I think about thirteen or fourteen. They had one child they called Polly, and she married a man by the name of ~~Ed~~ *John* Irons, and said ~~Ed~~ *John* Irons and his wife raised three children, to-wit: Ed Irons, Elisha Irons, and Elvira Irons. The said Elisha Irons married a woman by the name of Butler. They raised several children, one of whom is now living. His name is John C. Irons and lives in the same neighborhood that I now live in.

The said ~~Ed~~ *John* Irons died, leaving the said Polly Irons. Afterwards the said Polly Irons married a man by the name of John C. Smith, and the said John C. Smith and his wife raised three children, one of whom was named Patsy Ann Alabama Smith who afterwards married a man by the name of Elias Roberts. The said Elias Roberts and his said wife, Patsy Ann … *[continues on page 2]*

Date and place from the uploader's description: 30 June 1900, Indian Territory, Southern District.

Commission genealogy chart

Image: Ancestry public tree 1609858 (shared 11 May 2012), described there as a “handwritten genealogy by Melvina Roberts.” The MCR packet numbers (612, 491, 611, 613) written beside each family suggest a Commission working chart.



Transcription of the main entries

- Left margin: “Me-shune-tubbe, father of Eliza Tubbe, married Elisha Baker, parents of Polly Baker, married first John or Ed Irons, second John C. Smith.”
- Ed Irons. Elisha Irons (dead) and wife Delilah Irons (dead) → John C. Irons 49, 1/8, wife Mollie Irons (MCR 612) → children Carrie B. 17, Lula May 14, Myrtle Lee 12, William N. 9, Roxie A. 7; John Edward Irons 25, wife Ida Irons (MCR 611) → Loyd Irons 8 months.
- Patsy Ann Alabama Smith (dead) married Elias Roberts → John Roberts 45, 1/16 (MCR 491), wife “Phoebe A. Roberts — note name of wife, see affidavit of applicant” → Leila Belle 14, Lily Ellis 11; James H. Roberts 44, 1/16 (MCR 613), wife Emily → Henry 14, Julia 13, Johnnie 12, Ida 11, Mandy Lee 9, Elias 6, Cashier 4[?], O. D. 1.
- W. A. Rankin 65: “Makes affidavit that he is a great grandson of Eliza Baker nee Tubbee. See record in MCR 612. Names of these ancestors not given.”

The note beside John Roberts’s wife flags the same conflict as the findings report: he named his wife Frances in testimony, while the marriage exhibit names Phoebe A. McKee.

Part VI — Open questions and sources

Open questions

- Page 2 of Melvina Roberts's affidavit (signature and notary) and the affidavits of John W. Roberts and John C. Irons — likely only in the NARA original file.
- Any record of Ann Roby or James Selph outside these statements; the Lewis Self family of Bellevue, Missouri, as a possible origin for Selph.
- Other Mississippi Choctaw clients of J. W. Cherryholmes, and whether the same witnesses or notary appear in them.
- Court of Claims No. 12742, Claimants' Brief, Vol. 1, pp. 540, 570, 590, for the 1843 adjudication of the child Me-shune-tubbee.
- Choctaw Reserve File C (NARA RG 75) for the Article 19 Meshoontabe reserve, W½ Sec. 9, T17N R18E (tree I880).
- Any tie between Jasper H. Harvey of Attala County and the Baker, Irons or Roberts families.
- Polly Baker's maiden name and the Rickman parents: Lucy Henderson Horton's *Family History* (pp. 233–240), Greene County, Tennessee, marriage bonds and deeds before 1796, and the John Rickman who signed the 1806 Bellevue memorial (father or brother?).
- William Rankin, a Greene County delegate with Elisha Baker in 1796, and the Rankin who married Elisha's daughter (tree I1956): not yet researched.

Sources

Dawes Commission records (NARA M1301, via Fold3)

- MCR 612, John C. Irons et al., images 54729110–54729783.
- MCR 491, John Roberts et al., images 98864549–98865025.
- MCR 611, John Edward Irons et al., images 54728749–54729029; decision of 27 April 1903, 54728784–54728840.
- MCR 613, James Henry Roberts et al., images 54729791–54729893.
- Henry O. Bishop (Charlie Bishop et al.), Mississippi Choctaw, Fold3 file 98866553; Reuben Goins, Chickasaw, Fold3 file 63721030.

Land records

- Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records: patent to Jasper H. Harvey and Ish te min che, 15 April 1853, accession STA-MS2590__.457, doc. 850C; patent to Jasper H. Harvey, 1 October 1859, accession STA-MS1560__.141 (glorecords.blm.gov).
- Elisha and Polly Baker to John Hutchings, deed, 5 May 1816, Washington County, Missouri Territory (Hurley tree, I878).
- Testimony of Walter Crow, 26 June 1806, Board of Land Commissioners, claim of Elisha Baker, Bellevue settlement; *American State Papers, Public Lands*, Vol. II, p. 441.

Marriage, census and other records

- Constitution of the State of Tennessee, 6 February 1796, signers for Greene County; transcription by Jerry Bryan, jerrybryan.com. Also "Tennessee 1795 Constitutional Convention, Greene County," *A New Nation Votes* (Tufts University), elections.lib.tufts.edu.
- "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790–1959," FamilySearch: Samuel Henderson and Lucy Richmon, 22 Feb 1786, Greene County (FamilySearch XZW2-RQJ); Sam Henderson and Lucy Rickman (FamilySearch XZ72-TJ6); William Richman and Mary Hopkins, 12 May 1797, Greene

County (FamilySearch XZW2-Y98).

- “United States, Census, 1830,” FamilySearch: Elisha Baker, Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory, p. 127 (FamilySearch XHPX-8LN); Oliver Brewer, Hempstead County (FamilySearch XHPX-8B5).
- “United States, Bureau of Land Management Tract Books,” FamilySearch: Abraham Rickman, Batesville, 30 Jul 1822 (FamilySearch 62WV-D9D1).
- Elisha Baker Rickman: Find a Grave index (FamilySearch QVKL-MGQN); “Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837–1957,” Elisha B Rickman and Rebecca Kellett, 6 May 1841, Lawrence County (FamilySearch QG11-91JM); 1860 census, Turnback Township, Lawrence County, Missouri (FamilySearch MHZ4-4CK). “North Carolina, County Marriages,” Abraham Rickman and Rosanah Barbee, 26 Mar 1803, Orange County (FamilySearch QP9K-DGH6).
- Samuel Henderson Family Bible Record, 1786–1899 (Holy Bible, Philadelphia: Kimber and Sharpless; inscribed “Samuel Henderson Book, October 31, 1831”), photocopy in Bible Records, Tennessee State Library and Archives; sharetngov.tnsosfiles.com.
- Find a Grave index, FamilySearch: Abraham Rickman (FamilySearch QV2B-WQQD) and Rosanna Barbee Rickman (FamilySearch QV2B-WQQ6), Berryville, Carroll County, Arkansas (burial place only).

Published compilations

- Pike County Archives and History Society, *The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (Murfreesboro, Ark., Winter 2000), pp. 11-26 to 11-31, “Bellevue Settlement” and Samuel Henderson, citing Lucy Henderson Horton, *Family History*, pp. 233–240; pcahs.com.

Compiled trees (consulted, not evidence)

- FamilySearch Family Tree: Elisha Baker, L5XT-2ZV; Elisha Calvin Baker, 1756–1832, LCZ3-876; Polly Baker, N8M9-N1D; Lucy Rickman, LZD7-QHS; John B. Rickman, 2H61-4BG; Abraham Rickman Sr, KLF8-Q8R. Ancestry public member trees, search of “Eliza Tubbee” with spouse Elisha Baker (about 47 trees), 21 Nov 2026.

Affidavit images

- Affidavits of W. A. Rankin and Ann Roby (3 July 1900), James Selph (3 July 1900) and Melvina Roberts (30 June 1900), MCR 612; images in Ancestry.com public member tree 4698068, posted 25 September 2019. Commission genealogy chart, Ancestry.com public member tree 1609858, posted 11 May 2012.

FamilySearch historical records

- FamilySearch Q2ZY-62MH — Marriage, I R McCasland and Sarah A Rankin, Montgomery Co., Texas, 1869
- FamilySearch K3CJ-BYF — Death certificate, Sarah Edalin McCasland, Houston, 1922
- FamilySearch MXLG-4XD — 1850 census, Polk Co., Texas, James M. Rankin household
- FamilySearch MXFF-F9K — 1860 census, Grimes Co., Texas, J. M. Rankin household
- FamilySearch MFNJ-DM6 — 1880 census, Harris Co., Texas, Isaac R. McCasland
- FamilySearch MFNJ-H6M — 1880 census, Harris Co., Texas, Wm. A. Rankin
- FamilySearch M3GK-L9P — 1900 census, Houston, Elizabeth Rankin household with Beatrice McCasland
- FamilySearch QP7Q-324M — Hollywood Cemetery, Houston, J R [I R] McCasland, 1908
- FamilySearch HRWN-T23Z — 1850 slave schedule, Polk Co., Texas, Rankin
- FamilySearch MFSP-D5Q — 1870 census, Pontotoc Co., Mississippi, James Selph

- FamilySearch XHBX-FBR — 1840 census, Phillips Co., Arkansas, Lewis Self
- FamilySearch MSRT-RYC — 1900 census, Chickasaw Nation, J. W. Cherryholmes household
- FamilySearch D9PY-J43Z — Voter record, Lawton, Oklahoma, J. W. Cherryhomes, 1906
- FamilySearch KS17-SBK — Death record, Cyrus Clay Cherryhomes (parents J W Cherryhomes and Alice Southward)

Published and web sources

- Winton v. Amos, 255 U.S. 373 (1921)
- Oklahoma Historical Society, “Mississippi Choctaw and the Dawes Roll”
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, “A New Chahta Homeland: 1900–1910”
- Access Genealogy, Commission statistics

Tree IDs (I880, I902, etc.) refer to the Hurley tree on familytree-search.org. Testimony ages are as given in 1900. DNA results are as reported to the compiler. No tree records were changed in preparing this document.