



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

Cherokee Ancestry

1 message

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To: consultation@bia.gov

Wed, Aug 7, 2013 at 1:34 PM

07 August 2013

Kevin Washburn,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Cherokee Ancestry

Dear Mister Washburn,

I am Cherokee Indian by Blood. Having said that please allow me to tell a condensed version of my story:

My family has, for years, been denied

admission to the Tribe. My grandfather, his sons and I have applied for admission and we have all been rejected at one time or another. It all began in Vinita, Indian Territory October 2nd, 1900 when my great-grandfather, James Starrett Alexander, applied for enrollment of his living children, Maud Porter Alexander and Charles Alfred Alexander. I have transcripts of the hearings that took place on that date along with several others from October 23rd, 1901 to October 29th, 1901 followed by the Decision rendered by a Tams Bixby backed by a Commissioner Breckenridge. This Decision ultimately resulted in the rejection (R-211) of my grandfather, Charles Alfred Alexander. No rejection was issued for his sister, Maud, because she was of legal age and thus had to apply for herself. I have not determined if she ever made the application because I am not her descendent.

In addition to these transcripts I also have copies of documents proving that my grandfather's mother, Louisa Jane Alexander nee Schrimsher (1851-1885), was listed on the Drennan Roll of 1851 along with her siblings. Those siblings are now listed on the Dawes Final Rolls as number 26911 and number 10007. My grandfather was also listed as 3/8 Cherokee on the 1896 Census of Cherokees by Blood of the Cooweescoowe District, Cherokee Nation but this seemed to make no difference to those presiding over the hearings. They were more intent on proving that my great-grandmother had "given up her citizenship rights" when she worked part time in *the States* (Missouri).

Our ancestry can be traced to the Scottish Trader named Ludovic Grant who married a full-blood Cherokee in 1726. We also are directly related to Richard Fox Fields who was

a Chief of the Texas Cherokees before he was assassinated in 1827. We possess a rich history with the "Fields" and "Schrimsher" families including a relationship to the great Will Rogers whose mother was a first cousin to my great-grandmother. This information is readily available in Dr. Emmet Starr's *History of the Cherokees* and his subsequent books.

We have been told by the Cherokee Registrar's Office that our heritage is not in question and that we are rejected because our ancestor, Louisa Schrimsher, is not on the Final Rolls.

I understand that there are others in the same predicament as myself, i.e., those who can prove without a doubt that we are Cherokee but have no one listed on the *Final Rolls*.

Can something be done through legislation that will change this ruling of ancient times? It seems to me that when someone has proof of Indian ancestry, there should be no question with regards to application approval.

Please let me know if you need further documentation to facilitate a decision in this matter.

Best regards,

Larry J Pate

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Cherokee Ancestry

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