TAHLEQUAH IT Oct 9th 1888

Dr MOSES BELL who being duly sworn upon his oath states I am 60 years old and reside in Sequoyah dist Cherokee nation. Document A being shown Mr. Bell it being a certificate from John S Vann under date of Nov 13 1871 who signs himself chief justice of the supreme court to the effect that Sarah J Bell wife of Dr M Bell has proven to his satisfaction by affidavits of Dr SH Payne and wife that Mrs. Sarah J Bell is entitled to all rights and privileges of other Cherokees in the Cherokee nation he recognized it as the same certificate that was in his possession for some years. I saw Document A presented here written. It was written by William H Turner. I don’t remember that anyone but Judge Vann, Mr. Turner, and myself were present at the time this certificate was made. It was written in a room in the capitol in the town of Tahlequah upstairs and on the north side of the passageway about the third from the first on this side. Judge Vann was in bed sick at the time the certificate was written. This was one reason why I suppose Mr. Turner made it and too Mr. Vann ordered Mr. Turner to write it.

Mr. Turner wrote the certificate and then read it to Mr. Vann and asked him if he would get up and sign it and Mr. Vann said that he did not feel like it and just to sign for him which was done.

Cross ex: This certificate was made on the 13th of November 1871. I don t remember whether it was in the forenoon or afternoon that it was written. I think probably after reflection that it was in the forenoon. There was no att’y present representing the nation at the time this paper was executed. There was no evidence adduced in my wife's citizenship cause before Mr. Vann except the affidavits taken before Ellis Sanders clerk for the dist court of Sequoyah dist. The reason why I went before John S Vann was that it was my understanding that he was the person to go before and be enrolled after giving satisfactory evidence that they were Cherokees. This I understood to be part of the duties of Chief Justice John S Vann in this connection.

My wife and children were represented as being Cherokees only as was represented in the affidavits of Dr SH Payne & wife taken before Ellis Sanders clerk of the dist court for Sequoyah dist at the time the above referred certificate was made by Mr. Vann,

The facts set forth in the affidavits of Dr SH Payne & wife were that Sarah J Bell nee Moffett my wife was a full sister of Mrs. Martha A Payne and Eudora Cobb who were both Moffetts who were admitted to citizenship May 29th 1871. I think the certificate Document A contains all the representations that were in the affidavits referred to as having been made by Dr Payne & wife before Ellis Sanders clerk Seq dist. I don t remember that there was any mention made of North Carolina Cherokees in the statements made by Dr Payne and wife upon which this certificate was issued. When I said that John S Vann was sick and that Mr. Cos Turner made this certificate I meant to say that Mr. Vann a was in bed sick in the same room where the certificate was a made in the capital building. **The names of my children by my former wife Sarah J Bell now deceased are as follows: \_ Robert H, Susan E Crawford nee Bell, J*ames* W*illiam* Bell, Martha W Morgan nee Bell, John E Bell, M*onus* M*oses* Bell, Sarah *0regonia* Scott nee Bell, Phillip J Bell, Jesse H Bell. My daughter Susan E Bell married a white man by the name of Vin Crawford. My son Robert married a Miss Amelia Chambers now deceased said to be a Cherokee and Chambers known as such daughter of William Chambers of Sequoyah dist. *James* William my son married a Miss Hester Hamm a white woman he lives in Sequoyah dist. My daughter Martha W Morgan nee Bell married Frank Morgan a Cherokee and now lives in Fort Smith Ark. Sarah 0*regonia* Scott nee Bell married Spratt Scott a white man and now lives at Shawneetown Indian Terr**. I don t know whether John S Vann was holding court regularly at the time Document A certificate was made or not. I don t know who the associate members of the Supreme Court were on the 13th day of Nov 1871 at the time Document A heretofore referred to was issued. There were no other members of the court present at the time it was made Document A the certificate under date of Nov 13th 1871 signed by John S Vann as chief justice supreme court is the only official paper emanating from the Cherokee nation that we have had and upon which we have relied for citizenship in the Cherokee nation This paper Document A 1 placed in the hands of Dr SH Payne at the time his case was before Judge Riley Keys court to be filed in his case before said court after which I obtained certified copies of this document.

(Note*:* Taken from testimony of a hearing in the Supreme Court of Indian Territory-Robert H. Bell et al vs. Cherokee Nation. *Italics* were added by Barbara Bell to clarify these people as to their common names in their family.)