

## LAST INDIAN FIGHTER DIED

by Carl Langford

This article came from a newspaper clipping probably from Brownwood dated Tuesday October 15, 1935. Daniel Perry Pinkard born 27 Jan 1848, died 10 Oct 1935, buried in Indian Creek Cemetery, Comanche, Tx. with his wife and a few of his children. It appears he was interviewed at some point before his death. **FAG # 58481092**. It is believed 10 children born to this union;

Dan (Daniel) Pinkard of Blanket, resident of Brown and Comanche counties for 75 years was the last surviving Indian Fighters of this county. He died at his home at Blanket and had spent the first 30 years of his married life in the Indian Creek Community. He was thought, to be the last survivor of the famous Hog Creek Indian fight that took place in Brown county in February, 1870.

Since 1919, Mr Pinkard has made his home with daughter Mrs. Will Franklin in Blanket, Tx. Born in Perry County, TN. On 27 Jan 1848 and came to Comanche County in 1853 and for a year and half helped his Uncle who had a contract to furnish beeves for 300 soldiers at Old Fort Chadman near Buffalo Gap and lived in that county until he moved to Blanket, Tx.

On 26 Dec 1868, he married Miss Sarah Caroline Barcroft in Bosque Co., Tx. and made their home in Indian Creek Community, Brown Co., for thirty years before moving to Mercers Gap where he engaged in ranching and gained considerable amount of land and cattle. Note: Mercer's Gap, Tx. is ten miles southwest of Comanche in southwestern Comanche County. It was named for Jesse Mercer, who settled in the county in 1848. A post office operated there from 1870 or 1871 until 1908. In 1890 Mercer's Gap had a population of twenty, two churches, and a school. In 1930 its population was reported at sixty-five.

While living at Indian Creek, he helped erect the first church in that community. He and Andrew Stewart hauled lumber from Hico and the building was erected during the ministry of Rev. Peter Graves.

Mr. Pinkard said, he saw Indians when helping his Uncle, slaughter cattle near Fort Chadman, when he was a mere lad. A line of Indians nearly three miles long migrating on foot, horses, and wagons, passed by, making a gaudy sight with the men in feathers and leggins with a narrow strip of cloth about their waists and squaws carrying their papooses on their backs.

These Indians he said, were of two tribes the Caddos who were friendly and the Comanche's, who were still unfriendly, and bothered the Fort for several weeks, stealing horses and cattle until they were chased away.

In Oakwood Cemetery at Comanche, Tx. is the grave of Freeman Clark who was killed in the Hog Creek fight near what is now Rising Star. He said he was less than twenty yards from Clark where an Indian buck shot him off his horse. Pinkard and Clark had become separated from the others and were circling the brushes where they thought the Indians were in hiding, when Clark was trapped in between two Indians and was shot in the right chest and ankle. At that moment Joel Naber and two others joined Mr. Pinkard and both Indians were killed. Mr. Naber's had his horse shot from under him. Mr. Pinkard was one of the two men who carried one end of the stretcher on which Clark's body was resting, from the scene of the battle, to town of Comanche. The two riding abreast with the corpse between them. The body was taken to the residence of Colonel Bill Stone, a pioneer Comanche Merchant and the men were not disbanded until the interment was made.

Here's how it all began, as told by Mr. Pinkard. "Started when a party of men enroute to a mill at San Saba were attacked by a band of Indian's, their mules killed and their grain scattered on the ground. Frank Brown, George Wallace and B. Grisson were in the party attacked and were later joined by John Roch. Brown was shot in the face but was not seriously hurt and chased the buck who wounded him to a point a mile east of Blanket where he killed the savage. The Indian's grave can still be located near the spot where he was killed, Mr. Pinkard says."

The night following the attack of the Indians on the party, a posse of men from town of Comanche under command of Dave Cunningham started in pursuit. When they caught with the Indians the next day, the fight on Hog Creek followed.

Children: Daniel Perry Pinkard and Sarah Caroline Pinkard Fag# 58481092

1. Joshua F. Pinkard *born 8 Oct 1869*. died 17 Feb 1871
2. Henry B. Pinkard *born 21 Mat 1871*, died 28 May 1871
3. Clara Olney Pinkard (*Franklin*) *born 13 Jun 1872* Comanche, Tx., d 24 Aug 1967 Bangs, Brown
4. Alma Pinkard born 1875
5. Elisha Irvin Pinkard b 11 Sep 1876 Comanche Co Tx., died 16 Dec 1955 Dublin, Erath Co., Tx
6. Marietta Pinkard (*Starling*) born 9 Oct 1878 Tx, died 8 Oct 1960 Brownwood, Tx.
7. Paul Revere Pinkard born 9 May 1880 , died 10 Jan 1939 Deleon Tx. # **58481096**
8. J. Perry Pinkard born 1884 (on 1900 Census Comanche, Tx.) (Not on 1910 Census).
9. Rufus Stephens Pinkard *born 30 Jan 1886* Comanche, Tx., died 8 Jan 1961 Comanche, Tx.
10. Harvey S. Pinkard *born 17 Jan 1888*, died 17 Nov 1889 **Fag# 58481095.**
11. Eva E. Pinkard born 16 Feb 1892, died 29 Sep 1981 **Fag# 68427446.**