

FIELDS, WALTER

INTERVIEW

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Interview with Walter Fields
By Henry Day, Interviewer
August 10, 1937

I was born three miles northwest of the present town of Dustin, on a small creek called "Hot Water," in January, 1880. I am now at the age of fifty-seven. I am a full-blood Creek Indian. My present post office is Weleska.

My father's Indian name was Eplo, which means Abraham in English. I do not know of his birth. He died in the year of 1905. He was a true citizen among his people. He was not a soldier during the Civil War.

My father used to tell me that when the war between the North and South was declared, some men went North and some to the South to be soldiers.

Mr. Opuithli Yahola did not want to fight either side, so he made up a band of men that felt as he did and took them to Kansas. My father was one of this band and he has told me they were stationed at "Eliee", which means in English Le Roy, Kansas. Here they stayed until peace was made in the year of 1865, but did not start for home until in the fall of 1866.

In this winter it was very cold and there was snow on the ground two feet deep. On the way South Opuithli Yahola took sick, so they hurried and tried to

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get him into the home land before he passed away, but he died a quarter of a mile before they reached the territory line and here he was buried near an old blackjack tree, which had been burnt at the top. This was used to mark his grave. After they had buried him, they stayed at his grave for ten days. Then they started for home again.

Before they started, some government soldiers found them and gave them some food and clothing, which were needed. They came to the home country which was not so far from the place where they had buried their leader, landing in Red Fork, which was a small town across the Arkansas River, west of the present site of Tulsa. Here the people took their families and decided to what town they should belong and they all scattered out into the territory.

Note--The interviewer and the one interviewed are Indian and no effort has been made to change into correct English the manuscript as written. Ed.