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Journalist,
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Interview With S. R. Lewis, 316 Alex
Building, Tulsa, and Clover Brown
Barrowman, 1237 South Atlanta Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

STORIES OF THE FIFTIES.

As told to me by the late Judge John
G. Schrimsher.

While discussing original sources and first hand material with S. R. Lewis, Cherokee mixed blood, considered an authority on Cherokee history, he told of seeing the diary written by John Lowery Brown on his "gold rush" trip to California in 1850. The diary was in the possession of his wife's cousin, Clover Brown Barrowman, 1237 S. Atlanta Street, Tulsa, at the time he read it.

In talking with Mrs. Barrowman I found the diary is now in the possession of her sister, Catherine, Mrs. E. H. Gist, in Oklahoma City and that Mrs. Gist had loaned the diary or journal to Muriel Wright for transcription for the Chronicles of Oklahoma June 1934. Mrs. Barrowman has a cane brought by her great-grandfather, David Brown, on the Trail of Tears.

This brought up the history of David Brown and his son, John Lowery Brown, and the following facts developed in the interview with S. R. Lewis.

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My wife, Elizabeth Schrimsher Lewis, is the daughter of Judge John G. Schrimsher. John Lowery Brown married Ann E. Schrimsher, half-sister of Judge Schrimsher. That is the reason we have been so interested in the history of the Brown family. According to the records we have, John Lowery Brown was the son of David and Rachel Brown. David and his sister Catherine occupy a prominent place in Cherokee history. They were removed by five generations from full blood descent from the Cherokee chief, Oo-loo-tsa. Catherine, noted for her beautiful character, joined the Presbyterian church at Brainerd Mission, Tennessee, 1818, at the age of 17. She never married and died in 1823.

In 1820 she established a Creek Path Mission near Guntersville, Alabama--about one hundred miles southwest of Brainerd. She was so zealous in her missionary work and seemed to possess such spiritual qualities that she was called "The Priestess" by the Indians. After her death, a book, "Memoir of Catherine Brown" was published in her memory by the American Board at Boston in 1824.

Catherine's brother David attended Cornwall Mission School in Connecticut and Andover Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. He worked as a missionary among his people

in the Cherokee Nation East and later among the Western Cherokees in Arkansas. He married Rachel Lowery-their son was John Lowery Brown, grandfather of Clover Brown Barrowman and Catherine Brown, now Mrs. E. H. Gist--Oklahoma City. John Lowery Brown married Annie Schrimsher, daughter of Martin Matthew Schrimsher. She was born in Guntersville, Alabama. The Schrimshers came to the Cherokee Nation in 1838. They lived at Fort Gibson.

Anne was considered the "Belle of the army post". She was a close friend of General Hazen, son-in-law of James G. Blaine--also of Standley, the portrait painter. One of her prized possessions was a picture of the father painted by Standley. This was a double portrait, that is, a picture was painted on each side of the canvas. I have often heard my Aunt Anne (my wife was the daughter of Judge Schrimsher, half brother of Anne) describe this portrait. She also told of her life at the army post in those days. Anne Schrimsher Brown was a remarkable woman even in her old days-retaining her beauty and vivacity. The last time I saw her was when I took her to the train here in Tulsa. She was going to Phoenix, Arizona, to live with her daughter, Mrs. Trent. That was about 1910. She died in Phoenix, I believe about 1912 or '15.

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I do not believe that John Lowery Brown married Anne until after his return from California in 1850. I have read the diary he wrote as secretary for "the gold rush" a party--it is an interesting study in trail marking. This diary--complete transcription--may be found in Chronicles of Oklahoma, June 1934. David Brown, John's father, died in 1852 and was buried in the old cemetery at Tahlequah. He and his father-in-law, George Lowery, rank high among Cherokee leaders in educational and political affairs. Even before Sequoyah made known his invention of the Cherokee alphabet, they had completed a Cherokee spelling book in English characters.

In 1826 they were both appointed by the General Council of the Cherokee Nation to make the first translation of the Cherokee laws and the New Testament into the Cherokee language using Sequoyah's alphabet. About fifty years after David's death it was decided to move his remains to the new cemetery at Tahlequah. The old cemetery had fallen into private hands. I believe there is a school house there now. Anyway, I was delegated as a Mason to assist in this duty. While it may sound gruesome, to me it was a privilege to hold the skull of that famous man in my hands. If size of

skull, the old Webster belief, has anything to do with intelligence, the size of David Brown's skull would be a proof.

Judge Schrimsher often told me of his trip to California in 1854, when he was only fourteen years old. His father, Martin Matthew Schrimsher was a large cattle owner in the Cherokee Nation, as was Ed Riley. With the assistance of John R. Carter, Schrimsher and Riley decided to take a herd of a thousand beef cattle to California to sell to the miners. So young John G. Schrimsher at fourteen became an Argonaut. As Schrimsher told the tale it was a long difficult journey. They followed the north side of the Cimarron until they struck the Santa Fe Trail. Indian trouble beset them. They had a fight with the Pawnee Indians near where Enid is today. There were no casualties and the greatest difficulty was to keep Indians from stampeding the herd of cattle. Indians resent what they considered trespassing and wanted so many hundred head of cattle as toll. This the "Argonauts" would not concede. They returned to the Nation by the way of New Orleans.

In 1888 Carter married the daughter of Charles Rogers, ex-judge of the Cooweescoowee District, a distant relative of mine.