

6589

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

377

Field Worker's name W. J. B. Bigby

This report made on (date) July 9, 1937

Name Arch Hummingbird

Post Office Address Stilwell, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 30 Year 1890

Place of birth Four miles north of Stilwell.

Name of Father Isaac Hummingbird Place of birth Near Stilwell

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother Doesn't pronounce it Place of birth --

in English.

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4.

Arch Hummingbird was born April 30, 1890. He lives three and one-half miles northwest of Stilwell on highway 51. He went to school very little, quitting in the third grade. Bill Gott was his teacher; also Joshua Hummingbird. He went to school at New Hope, one mile west of Stilwell. He went to church at Peavine, about four miles north of Stilwell, also at Double Springs, six miles west of Stilwell.

He has lived all of his life in this country. His grandfather's name was Bill Hummingbird. He was born in Georgia and came to the Indian Territory over what was known as the Trail of Tears. They were driven like cattle and when any of them died, they would just leave them lying, only sometimes burying them. And when night came they would be watched, to keep them from going back to their homes. He said they did not feed them very much when they were coming here.

The Government gave them an ax, plow, and some nails when they got here; and his grandfather cleared some land and raised some corn, pumpkins, and beans. They made most of the corn into hominy. They would cut a log about three feet long and cut a hole in one end of the log and

would bevil it, also cutting a pole to fit this place, and would pound this corn. This was the best way of using corn in that day. His grandfather said all the streams were full of fish and the Indians would get together and dig about four bushel of buckeye which they put in the creek. The fish caught in this manner would be divided and everyone would have plenty of fish.

At that time there was also plenty of game, wild turkey, squirrel, and deer. One could make a living easy in those days.

Bill Hummingbird had three boys and one girl. He was seventy years of age when he died and he has been dead about twenty years. The boys were Isaac, Joshua, and Jacob, but Arch Hummingbird doesn't know how to pronounce the girl's name in English. Isaac was the father of five boys and three girls. Bill was the oldest boy, then Rider Stan, Arch, Josh, and the girls were Josie, Lizzie, and Lillie.

Arch remembers when they would run horse races at what is Stilwell now. He was so small he doesn't remember who ran the races.

They went to Evansville, Arkansas, to mill and sometimes to Vanburen to trade.

The Hummingbirds were all against the allotment of land. They wanted it to remain as it was.