

SCOTT, DAN

INTERVIEW

#12092

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

SCOTT, DAN.

INTERVIEW.

12092.

Field Worker's name Hummingbird & Bigby.

This report made on (date) November 11, 1937. 193

1. Name Dan Scott.

2. Post Office Address Stilwell, Oklahoma, Rural Route

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 31. Year 1872.

5. Place of birth Flint District Cherokee Nation.

6. Name of Father Liver Scott Place of birth Cherokee Nation.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Polly Hughes Place of birth Cherokee Nation.

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 6.

*MARRIED ~~at Stilwell~~ ~~to~~ ~~Miss~~ ~~Bigby~~ ~~and~~ ~~lived~~ ~~in~~ ~~Cherokee~~  
see Cherokee Nat. Hist.*

~~Hummingbird & Bigby,  
Interviewers.  
November 11, 1937.~~

An Interview With Dan Scott, of  
Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Dan Scott, a three quarter Cherokee, was born in Flint District, Cherokee Nation, July 31, 1872. His parents were Liver Scott, a half-breed Cherokee, and Polly Hughes, a Full Blood.

The family consisted of Huckleberry, Dan and Feggie of the Liver children. Isaac Hummingbird, Charlotte Hummingbird and Nancy Starr were half brothers and sisters.

EARLY LIFE.

Scott was born about a mile north of the present town of Stilwell, now the county seat of Adair County. The Kansas City Southern Railroad has built a great lake on the premises on which he was born. He grew to manhood on this small farm of about twenty acres. But at that time his father was considered a wealthy man. He owned several head of cattle all the time. He usually raised all the food that the family consumed on this farm. The principal crop on the place was corn. They raised plenty of hogs in this part of the country.

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## EDUCATION.

Scott did not receive any education because he was an old timer. He did not believe in an education. He was a believer that education taught the Cherokees crookedness. Therefore he was not forced to go to school. He did not even learn to read or write his name. He was taught to write his name after he married. His mother made him go to school one time he remembers. When the bell rang, it scared him and he ran home. He never went any more. There were two schools near their home. These were the Fairfield and New Hope schools.

## CHURCH.

The earliest church established in this community was the Fairfield church. When Dan Scott was a small boy this was already a well organized church. The right date is not known when this church was established but the oldest church in this part of the Cherokee Nation was the Antioch church which was located on Peavine Creek, about five miles north of the town of Stilwell.

The Fairfield church in the early days was composed of several active workers. Among them were Jim Fishinghawk.

Jackson Redbird, J. H. Gritts and the Reverend Shell was the pastor at that time.

The church was located about one hundred yards south of the lake known as the Pump Pond on the K. C. S. Railroad. It was made of wood. The community at that time was not thickly settled.

This church building was also used for a school. Bill Gott taught school in this building.

#### TRADING AND MILLING POINTS.

Evansville, Arkansas, was their main trading and milling point. Sometime later a small store was established at the end of the prairie, south of where they lived; Henry Dannenberg operated this store. After the railroad was built, this store was moved to about where the Christian Church is now in Stilwell. At that time Stilwell was a prairie and some parts of the town were mud holes.

Most of the Cherokees then did their trading at Henry Dannenberg's store. Later, they established a post office at this place. The land on which Stilwell now stands belonged at that time to Henry Dannenberg, Ben Freeman and Liver Scott.

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## NEWSPAPERS.

After the post office was established at Stilwell, a mail carrier from Tahlequah would come twice a week to deliver the mail to the Dannenberg store. He went to Evansville. The "Cherokee Advocate" was printed at Tahlequah. This newspaper was the first printed matter that most of the Cherokees had ever seen.

About letters, the Cherokees did not communicate with one another by letter. This paper was printed both in English and Cherokee.

## DAWES COMMISSION.

This was a committee that visited the Cherokees to make up the rolls for allotment. They stationed a man at Dave Muskrat's on Step Mountain for the Cherokees in this part of the country. His name has been changed four times. His first name was Foster Scott later Kennie, then Qvadi and at the time of the Dawes Commission he was called Dan which is his name now.

## CIVIL WAR.

Dan's father was a Union soldier in the Civil War. He enlisted and was stationed for a long time at Fort

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Gibson. He was in the battle of Bentonville, Arkansas.

He never fought in what is now Adair County.

#### BATTLEFIELDS.

There were battles fought at two places within three miles of the place where Dan was raised. One was fought at the Eli Scotts Springs which is about two miles northwest of Stilwell and another was fought where Jim Neff's place is now, near the Maryetta School.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

At that time when Dan Scott was a small boy there was only one secret society among the Cherokees and that was the Kee-Too-wah Society. This organization started back in the old country. Dan Scott's father was a strong believer in this society. Dan was taken to their meetings while still very young.

He was also taught what that organization was for. The meeting place of these old timers was up the hollow from where Jack Soap's home was at that time. That would be about four miles northeast of Stilwell now. When he first went he was still small. He remembers that Dave Hitcher was the man that made the talk at this meeting.

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It was a secret organization at that time. But now they hold open meetings.

## ALLOTMENT.

The Scotts were in favor of the allotment; they were ~~the only Cherokees in this community~~ who belonged to the National Party who favored this law. Most of the Nationals were against the allotment.