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Immigration--Creek Nation  
Sawmills--Creek Nation  
Farming--Creek Nation  
Cattle--Creek Nation



Interview with Ben Shepherd,  
by field worker, Carl  
Sherwood, March 20, 1937.  
(Resides at Checotah--in-  
terviewed at Council Hill)

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Ben Shepherd, a son of Wesley Shepherd, resides on his farm north of Checotah.

Wesley Shepherd was born in Prestonburg, Floyd County, Kentucky on July 18, 1849. In 1872 he came to Indian Territory and started farming in the Deep Fork bottom south of Brush Hill and about 12 miles southwest of Checotah.

His wife was Miss Emaline Holbrook of Floyd County Kentucky in 1869.

The native timber in Deep Fork bottom was of large growth, such as Red Oak, Post Oak, Walnut, and pecan, and for several years Mr. Shepherd conducted a saw mill in connection with his farming and did a general logging business. He furnished native lumber for houses in Checotah, ranches, farmers, and ties for the M. K. & T. Railroad, fence posts for cattle pastures. For many years he put the first load of cotton on the Checotah market, which brought a hundred dollar premium for the first bale. The premium was made up by the merchants of Checotah. He usually farmed about 400 acres, which were in corn and cotton.

Mr. Shepherd was a lover of good livestock. His mules and horses were of the best type for farming, in this district. He also had quite a herd of native cattle on the open range and many hogs of his mark running loose in the bottom, which he did not feed as they kept fat on pecans and acorns.