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Field Worker
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Indian-Pioneer History
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OKMULGEE

The Creek Agency was first at the foot of the mountain west about three miles. My father put a store there and it was there till after the war.

He married North East of Eufaula at the Asberry Mission. Cap Severs his uncle was teaching there. Old M. E. Harrell was a traveling missionary. He use to stay with father. Cap came and worked for father.

Severs joined the Confederate side. Father was married and it was bad and dangerous here so he moved to Missouri till after the War. Cap Severs came back and married a fullblood Indian. He had a ranch at Ball Hill (I've known him when he had 60,000 head of cattle) He raised a family and moved to Muskogee.

In 1868 Shieldsville was moved here on account of the creek. The Council House was a log house, and the grounds were larger than they are now. The tree where they shot the Indians is gone. The Severs store was on the North East corner of the square, exactly where the Citizens Bank is now.

I came here in 1880, and it was the prettiest country I ever saw. There was plenty of game and fish for everyone.

There is a little story I'd like to tell about Pleasant Porter. You know when they allotted the Osages they reserved the Mineral rights because they were "Blankets". Some wanted to reserve the mineral rights for the Creeks but Porter and others said that if they got the top of the ground they should get it as far down as it went and everything it contained. There was a young man, about 35, named Hoard, who was a rich Bond Broker. He went

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to Turner a friend of Porter's and told him that he wanted Porter to let it go through and be reserved. Turner said there was nothing he could do about it. Porter was very headstrong whenever he decided anything there was no changing him. Hoard asked if \$2,000,000.00 would change his mind. Turner said that he would have to ask Porter himself, that he wouldn't have anything to do with it. Hoard went to another of Porter's friends with the same result. That is just to show what kind of a man Porter was, even his own friends would be afraid to tempt him to bribery.

They've always known that there was oil under here, they'd get it when they were drilling wells.

I. F. Brown of Wewoka had the first well.

ISPAHECHA REBELLION

Checota was the Chief during the time Ispahecha rebelled. Ispahecha was Supreme Judge, Chief Justice of the Creek Nation. The Southern Wing (The Creek were divided the same as our Civil War) had control, filed charges against Ispahecha and wanted him to resign without a trial. They were impeaching him without a trial. He was very smart but he had no money. He tried to get the Government to interfere but they said it was none of their affair and to settle it in their own way. He said he'd force the S. wing to give him a trial. He took his people over in the Sac and Fox Reservation for when he was over there the government had to interfere as he was off of his ground. That cost the Government for it had to feed and take care of them while it had them. They went through here and the Troops brought them back through here. They were taken to Fort Gibson and all the important Indians were requested to be there. Old Checota was a Methodist

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Preacher and wouldn't travel on Sunday, so they were a day late with the meeting but a treaty was made there that stopped the trouble.

At that time almost ever Indian was a Preacher.

Checotah was Chief in 1885, he came from Alabama, and was about 80 years old when he died.

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The greatest sin ever perpetrated was the way the white people have treated the Indians. The finish hasn't been written yet. The Indian was truthful, honest and brave. Why they could whip an Indian till he dropped dead and he would never make a cry. I've seen them whip them but I've never heard one hollow yet. And when they were going to kill him they wouldn't lock him up. I've sold two Indians their burial garments before they were shot. ~~Yes, they had a downcast, or sad appearance but not a whimpering one. They were religious people.~~

(He showed me a paper, Okmulgee Democrat as proof of this story)

The greatest thrill I ever got was for saving the Belcher, Indian boy from being shot. One day his father walked in and dropped on a chair, completely exhausted. I knew him well and went over to him to see what was the matter and if I could do anything for him. He told me that his boy was going to be shot, for murder, (not to-morrow, but say this was Monday then about Thursday). That was just when the change from Tribal Government to Federal Government. Well, I know there was no use going to the Indians, They had done all that they were to do till time to kill him. There was an old negro staying with us, he had been Cap Sever's father's slave. I told him to feed the team and hitch it up. He did and I started to Muskogee. I got there next morning about sun-up. I got a Habeas Corpus (cost me \$40.00) I had to hire a livery rig and that cost. Deputy Bill Little came and got him. Judge Springer reviewed the case and turned him loose. All together it cost me about \$100.00 but I didn't regret it. Sometimes murder is justifiable I don't know why he killed the man.

Until 1888 all the Federal court trials were at Fort Smith, a hundred or more outlaws were caught, tried and hung there, from here.

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Judge Isaac Parker was a Congressman from Illinois. He was given the place of Judge for life. Well, as he got older he became a monomaniac (he was just too old and crime bore on his mind, he was too severe).

The Southeast was a rich cow country and was infested with cow-tieves. Dr. Bland was a white man who had married an Indian woman. ~~He got into trouble with the cattle thieves, was tried and sent to prison~~ He was a prominent man and that started the advocates for the court here. J. H. Noble was Sec. of the Interior. Just because we lived here was no reason that we were all criminals and we didn't want to be treated as such.

Mr. Shields is a Democrat and thinks the President's way of changing the Supreme Judges is right for when a man is eighty he has been judge too long, his mind has changed and he won't be fair, nor give the same decisions he would have years before. Their time of usefulness on the bench is past.