

1860-1861

- 1861--Cherokee Nation
- 1862--Cherokee Nation
- 1863--Cherokee Nation
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- 1866--Cherokee Nation

## INTERVIEW WITH J. B. SIXKILLER

FIELD WORKER GUS HUMMINGBIRD

April 28, 1937

J. B. Sixkiller was born in Flint district, Cherokee Nation, December 2, 1874. His parents, Matt and Jennie Sixkiller, were natives of the Cherokee Nation.

## EARLY LIFE.

Mr. Sixkiller was raised on a farm, operated by his father, located about six miles south of the present city of Stilwell, near the present Dahlonega school house.

Mr. Sixkiller received his education at a small country school near his home. He completed the sixth grade. In those days he was considered educated. At an early age Mr. Sixkiller became an interpreter for his people.

He took an active part in Cherokee National politics, and was a staunch believer in the Kee-Too-Wah, of which he is still a member.

## FARMING.

Mr. Sixkiller helped his father operate the farm on which they lived. They were considered rich people of that time. They usually hired much help during the summer for they operated about forty acres.

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Money was not such an important thing to have around the place at that time so the Sixkillers usually paid their hired men with the produce raised on their farm.

One year they sowed twenty acres of wheat, which was harvested by hand cradle.

Mr. Sixkiller's father called about a dozen of his friends with their old time cradles, they cut the wheat in two days but it took the binders and shockers about four or five days to get this bundled and shocked.

This wheat was threshed by horse power thresher owned by a Mr. John Welch, who lived in the Horn Community at that time. The Sixkillers also raised stock, which they marketed at home to buyers from Ft. Smith, who came through the country buying stock. The country was a free range and cattle stayed fat all the year.

#### CHURCHES.

Mr. Sixkiller's nearest church was the Antioch Baptist Church, which was established immediately after the Civil War. This church was located about five miles north of the present city of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Some old time ministers he remembers are Mr. Smallwood

Reverend Johnson Spade, Wolfe Coon, and Nick Snipp.

Several years later churches were established throughout the Cherokee Nation.

#### AMUSEMENTS.

The amusements of that day were ball games, horse-racing and corn stalk shooting.

These games were matched between two communities. They usually had about forty men on each side and the country was notified weeks before the game was to be held and hundreds of people from miles would come to see the shooting.

The night before the match, both sides would stay all night near a strong spring. Here the medicine man would give treatments on the muscles of his men or the men from his neighborhood.

The men would stay up all night and take these treatments so as to be strong the next day. The Cherokees at that time believed that a strong medicine man could witch people and make them weak. So by doing this they could overcome the weakness that was planned by the other side.

Early the next morning before the sun came up the medicine man would line these men up on the banks of the

branch. Then he would tell which side was going to win.

The gamblers of those days were then notified of the medicine man's decision. When the game started betting took place and many horses and saddles have been lost in games of this kind.