

INDEX CARDS

Immigration--Cherokee Nation

Crime--Cherokee Nation

Payments--Cherokee

Springs--Cherokee Nation

Delawares

Negroes--Cherokee Nation

Chance, C. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Banner History, 3-149

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Interview: Clyde J. Stuart
Vinita, Oklahoma
R. F. D. #3

My name is Clyde J. Stuart. I was born at Wilsonville, Burns Co.,
Oregon. I first came to the Indian Territory in July 1906 and stopped at
"Bull Dog" on Grand River, a short distance south of Muskogee, Okla.
I went to work for Gustus Leonard of the place. The Leonard men were producing
a lot of land and had plenty.

The Witness to the Trial

I had just reached my work at the "Bull Dog" when one day by
chance I met a very large man, whose name I do not remember. Bill
asked me and told me that he had a trial case on the next day and he
needed a witness. They got into an argument about it and the big man knocked
me down with a little "bull dog" pistol. He then, while I was
scrambling under my gun, he shot the big man under the left ear and
he fell down. He was never able to talk.

I then came to Vinita and gave myself up, where I stayed and
waited for the United States Commissioner McClure. His hearing
was at the old court at different places in the district.

Bill came for his trial and came clear.

My witness in his case had to go all night in Okla.
There were no lawyers, no court there at that time and the town was full of
everywhere. I had fifty cents to sleep in a building in an old house
and I didn't get any bed at all. The town was full of graft
and they were overcharging and liable to get their money.

Moved Further West

I left Leonard after the trial and crossed Grand River, west to

track and landed in a little hay town called Big Cabin, near where I spent ¹⁹⁰ the larger part of the remainder of my life. I got a job with Ed Miles on a farm four miles south of Big Cabin and worked for him six months, going from there to his brother, Jess Miles, on the Cal Gunter place on Rock Creek, where I worked one year.

My father's name was Samuel J. Stuart. He was born in Iowa in the year of 1844. My mother's name was Calou Alexander. They were married in Iowa in 1870 to which union six boys and two girls were born.

My parents and the rest of my brothers and sisters moved to the Indian Territory in 1897 and located on the Union Shivers place five miles east of Big Cabin.

Gets Married

I was married to Maude Clevinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Clevinger, in August 1903. To this union one girl was born, Gladys Ann. I was married the second time to Jessie E. Benson, to which union two girls were born.

Started Buying Grain

Wheat and hay were the principal crops raised these days and I started buying grain for the Millard Elevator Company of Kansas City in 1904, at Big Cabin. I worked for this company for a good many years and finally managed to buy an elevator of my own.

I went to Adair, ten miles south of where I got my start, and bought an elevator from W. L. Brock, who was also running a store in Adair. I bought wheat and hay there for a number of years and finally sold out and went to California, with a view to buying a little place there. I found out so high land town property too, that I decided it would be best to go back to Oklahoma and buy land, which we did.

Buys Farm

I bought the Mote Trickey place near the "Old Sulphur Spring", located

few years after he came back he killed Alex Chuteau, in a card game, shooting him in the top of the head, when both men rose from the table for a fight. He was cleared of this charge.

He is now living on his own farm, seven miles southeast of Vinita, Route #3, and working with the Government Conservation force.