

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

INDEX CARDS

Cherokee Nation
Tribe-Cherokee
Hunting
Churches
Indian Remedies
United States Marshals

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

Field Worker's name W. J. B. Bigby.

This report made on (date) July 15. 1937.

1. Name J. W. Brewer.

2. Post Office Address Stilwell, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 17 Year 1871.

5. Place of birth Adair County, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father Richard Brewer. Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lue Fisher. Place of birth _____

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 4.

BREWER, J. W. INTERVIEW.

8712.

W. J. B. Bigby,
Interviewer.

An Interview With J. W. Brewer,
Stilwell, Oklahoma.

J. W. Brewer, one quarter Cherokee, was born April 17, 1871, in Indian Territory in what is now Adair County, and has lived here all his life. He has a fair education. His father died when he was seven years old, his mother when he was a very young boy. He lived with his uncle and aunt until he became a grown man. They told him about the trip of his father and mother when they came from Georgia and were driven here in what was called "The Trail of Tears". He said they told him there were ten thousand when they left Georgia; but when they arrived at Evansville, Arkansas, there were only five thousand. When they were driving them here, he said they fed them only very little. Some would get sick and some died on the road. Whenever anyone got sick or died they were just left. They were guarded at night; afraid they would go back.

When they first arrived here they would clear up a piece of land, would hoe one man's crop out, until every man had his crop worked. They farmed mostly with hoes. They told him they didn't count by numbers, they would just tie

-2-

knots in ropes and go by them.

FISHING.

Mr. Brewer said men of Going Snake, Cherokee, Delaware, and Sequoyah Districts would bunch up and dig four or five bushels of buckeye. They would go to the Illinois River, about twenty-five miles west of Stilwell near Tahlequah, to a hole of water called, "Standing Rock". A man lived here by the name of Cornstak. He would help and they would kill fish by the wagonloads. The fish were cooked on the creek until all were tired of them, and still there were fish to take home.

HUNTING.

There was plenty of all kinds of game, wild turkey, wild hogs, pigeons and deer. His uncle told him when he first came to this country there were bears, but not since he could remember.

HORSE RACING.

The Starr boys and his uncles, the Fisher boys, had race horses. There was a race track at the Henry Dannenburg

-3-

place, that is now Stilwell; also one at Ben Paden's place, five miles southeast of Stilwell. One of the Shannons shot and killed a horse belonging to the Fisher's, and that started trouble between them. Mage, Cal, Bird and John Fisher and Jim Reed were all killed because this horse was shot. Several of the Shannons were killed, but he doesn't remember how many.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

The Brewers was all against allotment of land; they wanted/^{it}to remain as it was.

DOCTORS.

All the Indians doctored themselves. They used herbs such as snake and black root, sarsaparilla, and may apple. Iron weed was used for the kidneys. They used ground ivy to lower ~~lower~~ their fever. It grew on bluffs and rocks. They used no doctors except Indian doctors.

CHURCHES.

The oldest church he remembered was the church at Oak Grove, about seven miles northeast of Stilwell. He couldn't remember any names of preachers.

-4-

CATTLEMEN.

The only man that he remembers handling cattle was Kale Starr. At that time there were no railroads in this country, and they drove cattle to Kansas City on horseback. They ^{some}drove ^{helped}to Coffeyville, Kansas. Mr. Brewer ^{drive some}; and it would take several days to make a trip.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS.

Some of these United States Marshals were Charley Copeland of Siloam Springs, Ed Ledbetter of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Red Rogers of Fort Smith, and Bill Smith of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

J. W. Brewer married Thurs Still. Ten children were born to them as follows:

Floyd, Sallie, Jewel, J. B. Emmett, Margaret, Cherry, Mose, Watie, and Perry.

For the last few years he has owned and operated a farm about ten miles southeast of Stilwell.