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BRUNER, WILLIAM M.

INTERVIEW

#6890

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Nettie Cain, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
July 20, 1937

Interview with William M. Bruner.
Holdenville, Oklahoma, Route.

William M. Bruner, Creek Freedman, was born in the Creek Nation, now Hughes County, November 30th, 1871. The grandparents of William Bruner came from Alabama in 1835, traveling in ox wagons. There were several families of Creek Indians who came at this time.

They settled near Fort Holmes, then known as Newburg on the South Canadian River. There were no railroads and very few people then. They would raise cotton and the cotton was hauled to Eufaula to market, taking several days to make the trip. William was seven years old when his mother spun the thread, wove the cloth and made him a pair of pants. When cloth was to be of different colors, the thread was dyed and dried then woven into cloth. Barks of trees were used for dye.

In August 1887, trouble arose among the Creeks. This was known as the Green Peach War. The cause of the trouble was that some boys had been arrested and taken by the light-horseman to the captain's house at Wetumka. The other group

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members demanded the prisoner's release. The Captain refused, so they over-powered him and after taking him, they killed him.

Joe Barnett, a colored man, was one of the prisoners and he was killed also.

When William was a small boy he lived close to an old Indian man by the name of Tymia. Tymia was a very mean Indian who would scare all the children. William had to pass his house on his way to school and he was so afraid of Tymia that he soon quit school. A few years later Tymia went on the warpath and shot his wife. This occurred in the middle of the road which is in the northern part of the town of Holdenville; but at that time there was nothing here.

The other Indians were very much afraid of Tymia and one day they waylaid him on the road and when he came by, they shot him.

When William was a small boy he used to go with his father to Frank Jacobs to trade cattle. Frank Jacobs was John Jacob's father.