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BROWN, HARRY R.

INTERVIEW

#6928

94

Nettie Cain
Interviewer
July 14, 1937

Interview with
Harry R. Brown

Harry R. Brown, 1/16 Mohawk Indian, was born in Wewoka, in 1871. His father, Eliga J. Brown moved the north Seminole Indians from LeRoy, Kansas, to Fort Gibson. After they had been here a short time, he was appointed major by the United States Government to move the north Seminole Indians to the Seminole Nation and here they met the south Seminoles and established peace between the two tribes and made them one tribe known as the Seminole Nation.

In 1867 Mr. Brown entered business for himself.

About this time a disease broke out among the Indians, known as cholera. Many died and Mr. Brown was very good to go and help take care of the sick. After this the Seminoles adopted him into their tribe.

Wewoka was designated as the capital of the Seminole Nation, where all council meetings were held.

Eliga Brown was secretary for the council and made

- 2 -

many trips to Washington in the interest of the Seminole people. He was a delegate to Okmulgee in 1872.

At this time delegates were from everywhere and representing all tribes of Indians. The purpose was to establish an Indian State, but nothing was completed, no agreement could be reached.

Regular payments were made to the Seminole Indians about once a year. The Seminole Government was the richest Government as they had a million and a half dollars for their interest in old Oklahoma and this was paid per capita. Some of the money was used to build schools for the Seminole children.

Mr. Harry Brown said his early life in the Indian Territory was ideal. There was plenty to eat, meat of all kinds, money was almost useless as there was not much to buy. When Mr. Brown was a small boy they had a two years drouth and the Government used the Seminole money to buy corn, flour and other things. This was issued according to the number in a family and enough to run a year.