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BRUNER, BEN F.

INTERVIEW

12836

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

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Field Worker's name Nettie CainThis report made on (date) January 24, 1938 19381. Name Ben F. Bruner2. Post Office Address Route 5,3. Residence address (or location) Holdenville, Oklahoma4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 2 Year 18525. Place of birth Fort Holmes, Oklahoma6. Name of Father John Bruner Place of birth Alabama.7. Name of Mother Grace Bruner Place of birth FloridaOther information about mother Fullblood Seminole

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 2 sheets.

BRUNER, BEN F.

INTERVIEW

#12836

Investigator,  
Nettie Cain,  
January 24, 1938.

Interview with Ben F. Bruner,  
Route 5, Holdenville, Oklahoma.

I was born August 2, 1852, on the banks of the South Canadian River near Fort Holmes and the old Government bridge.

My father, John Bruner, was a Creek Freedman who came from Alabama and my mother, Grace Bruner, was a full blood Seminole who came from Florida with the Seminole Indians.

Father was a slave and was sold to Jim Factor for \$3,000.00 in Confederate money. Mother and we children were not slaves but Father's master allowed him to take his family when he was sold.

During the Civil War we went to the Chickasaw Nation and his master would let him rent land and would give him part of what he made.

Father and one other brother, with their families, went South during the Civil War, while three other brothers, Perry, Ceasar and Will, went North with the Seminole Indians and served with the Union Army until the close of the War.

BRUNER, BEN F.

INTERVIEW

#12536

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Jim Factor, the big slave owner, was a Major in the Civil War under Colonel John Jumper. Jim was very kind and good to his slaves.

After the close of the War our family returned to the Pottawatomie country near Shawnee. Father had an ox team and wagon. Soon after we returned the Government gave us rations, as we were all in destitute circumstances. They gave us flour, corn and beef but these rations were only issued once a year. The Government soon began paying \$15.00 for each member of the family and we stopped getting rations.

The Freedman shared in the Government payments the same as the fullblood Indians and they were also given allotments.