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BRONN, J. S. (Shorty)

INTERVIEW

15695

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

BROWN, J.S. (SHORTY)

INTERVIEW

13693

Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date) April 11, 1938

1. Name J. S. (Shorty) Brown

2. Post Office Address Hoiny

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1868

5. Place of birth Kentucky

6. Name of Father Mr J. Brown Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Served four years in Civil War

7. Name of Mother Fanny Nelson Place of birth Kentucky

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 3

BROWN, J. S. (SHORTY)

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Charles H. Helt,
Investigator,
April 11, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. J. S. (Shorty) Brown,
Honiny, Oklahoma.

J. S. (Shorty) Brown was born in Kentucky in 1868.

He chose as his vocation teaching school. He began teaching in Kentucky. He heard of the possibilities in Indian Territory and made his decision in 1892 to come to the Territory to start teaching. He came by train as far as Van Buren, Arkansas, and made his way into the Territory on foot settling where Bower is now and he taught the Bower school for eight successive years. The Bower school was very small and was built of large oak logs stuck together with mud. It was also used for a church house as well as a school; it was a Baptist and Methodist Church both. There were Indians as well as whites who came to the Bower School and to the church also. Mr. Brown found the Indian children very apt. The second year Mr. Brown was there he urged the people in the community to improve the schoolhouse or to build a better one in which plan they co-operated very well and a better building was built.

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Dan Baitle and Mr. Brown established a post office which still stands in Bower. Captain Stanley was a member of the Choctaw Council. He had two boys, Jake and Hamp, who were gangsters or outlaws and were wanted in all parts of Oklahoma for various crimes.

Mr. Brown carried mail from Eufaula to Russellville one year, when Mr. Brown got off of the train at Van Buren he had to walk the rest of the way and he found the farmers and the ranchers very friendly.

John Tiger, a Creek Indian, came to town one day in 1899. He was very drunk and his wife had to drive the team part of the way. Upon reaching Eufaula John stopped in front of a small restaurant. He had two guns, one a Winchester the other a six shooter, and being too drunk to know what he was doing he picked up his guns and began firing at people on the street. Before the "law" could stop him he had killed three men and there was a small boy some distance from him who had some of his waist buttons shot from his pants. Tiger saw the United States Marshal, Grant Johnson, who was a negro, coming and knew that his game was up so he ran for a short distance, then stumbled over a low fence. He then started

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firing with his six shooter at the marshal. There were two large trees between John Tiger and Grant Johnson and each one took to a tree for protection. While fighting the bullets could be heard hitting the trees. The marshal shot Tiger in the right arm and captured him. The people in Eufaula were in a panic and wanted to string John Tiger up but Mr. Foley quieted the mob and prevented them from lynching John Tiger.

Mr. Brown left the Choctaw Country in 1899 and came to the Osage where he began farming and is at present farming in the vicinity of Hominy.