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BUTLER, ROBERT.

FOURTH INTERVIEW

7722

149

BUTLER, ROBERT.**FOURTH INTERVIEW.****7722.**

**Carl Sherwood,
Interviewer,
Oct. 2, 1937.**

**Interview With Robert Butler,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.**

My father, George A. Butler, one-half Cherokee was born near the old Cherokee Orphan Asylum south of the city of Tahlequah, January, 1860. My mother, Miss Charlotte Downing, a full blood Cherokee, was born in 1863 in what was known as the Ray settlement east of Wagoner and east of Grand River.

My mother died in 1910 and was buried in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

There were seven children in our family, as follows: Maggie, born 4th of July, 1881; I was born May 20, 1884; Susie, born April 24, 1887; Sam, born June 1, 1893; and Gudiok, born April 3, 1894; Curtis, born October 9th, 1903; George Alva born January 2, 1906.

When I was at the age of six years my folks moved to Anadarko where my father, George Butler, went to work for a Texas cattleman named Fleetwood, who owned the Fleetwood ranch of Day County, Texas. After shipping

BUTLER, ROBERT.

FOURTH INTERVIEW.

7722.

-2-

all cattle out of Oklahoma City my father was transferred to Day County, Texas, where he worked for two years and from here he moved to the Wichita Indian reservation north of Red River and here was stricken with the rheumatism which lasted about two years.

While we lived here my father met a Cherokee Indian named Leach, who was known as Blind Leach and was a great horse doctor for the Indians and the United States Government.

My father cleared about four acres of bottom land and planted corn, and when the corn was old enough to eat, a herd of Indian ponies, with a little sorrel pony as the leader, entered the field. My father caught the leader and put a cow bell on his neck so he could hear the bell and know when they were headed for the corn field.

One morning four tall Wichita blanket Indians came up to my father's house with guns and pointed and made motions with their guns that they were going to shoot at sun down. My father thought they intended to shoot him, but he heard the bell on the horse the leader of

BUTLER, ROBERT. FOURTH INTERVIEW.

7722.

-3-

the herd coming to the corn field, and in a few minutes we heard a shot fired and it wasn't long until the four blanket Indians came marching up to the house and then handed him the ball and made motions that the pony would not bother the corn any more. A few days later the Indians had their annual green corn or Busk Dance and when everything was ready and the cooking started the Indians came to my father's corn field and carried sacks of corn each day until the field was stripped of corn. My father didn't dare refuse their getting all the corn they wanted.

About a month later the Government brought the Wichita Indians their rations which were groceries, meat, blankets and clothing, and the Indians well paid my father for the corn for they came to the house with groceries, blankets, and meats of all kinds.