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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: William P. Beck

EARLY MILL AND COURTS

Mr. William P. Beck lives at 431 Minor St., Tahlequah, Okla. He was born in Delaware County near Beck's Mill on March 5th, 1870. His father was Ezekiel Beck, his mother, Martha Sturdivant Beck. He is a Cherokee Indian. His father and mother came to what is now Oklahoma in 1838, his father being 3 years old at the time. They came from Georgia. They had a very hard time on the way here, many of the Indians died on the trip. His uncle ran and established the Beck and Hilderbrand Mill at Flint Creek.

"My first school was at Dripping Springs, the teachers being Mollie McCoy and Lane Duncan. I went to the Male Seminary. G. C. Trobridge was Principal. J. T. Parks and W. H. Ballentine, Sr. were my teachers. I have lived in Tahlequah 49 years. My father was an interpreter in the Ft. Smith Federal Court. I have seen 14 men hanged at the Tahlequah Jail. My father served under Stand Watie during the Civil War."