

FALLING, OLLIE

INTERVIEW

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Hummingbird--Bigby,
Investigators.
November 23, 1937.

Interview with Ollie Falling

Ollie Falling and Bill Wolfe are both Cherokee doctors, both of Route 3, Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Ollie Falling was born in 1844, just four years after the immigrants came in 1838. Her people came in 1838. They settled just about a mile from where she now lives. Ollie was sixteen years old when the Civil War broke out in the Cherokee Nation.

Mrs. Falling tells us that clans have been among the Cherokees no one knows how long. She was taught at an early age to recognize her clan and to remember it. For the Cherokees of old times taught their children that all persons that belonged to the same clan were kin-folks. Those of other clans were not related to them. They did not allow marrying of those persons who belonged to the same clan.

This clan had lots to do with the Indian doctoring. No persons of the same clan were allowed to doctor.

They taught that the medicine would not do any good. There are seven clans in the Cherokee tribe. The names of three, interpreted, would be the Bird Clan, Wolf, and the Ah-He-Gee-Low Clan. This is the clan she herself belongs to. The last named clan, the word has no meaning in the Cherokee language.

The children took their clan after their mother. ~~The clans did not have anything to do with the part of the country that they settled.~~

The only thing that was watched closely was in time of sickness. The Medicine Man was careful about whom he was going to wait on.

These clans never had any trouble with one another.

Bill Wolfe is also a Medicine Man among the Cherokees now. His story is almost the same as Fallings. He is about eighty-nine.