

FIELDS, G. W.

INTERVIEW

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INVESTIGATOR, JAMES BUCHANAN
Indian-Pioneer History 8-149
October 22, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH G. W. FIELDS
Vian, Oklahoma.

The first prohibition law of the Cherokees enacted November 8, 1822 copied from the original statutes in the possession of G. W. Fields, the grand son of A. McCoy who was the clerk of the Committee.

New Town, (Capital) Cherokee Nation, (East of the Mississippi River) November 8, 1822.

Whereas, the great variety of vices emanating from dissipation, particularly from intoxication and gaming at cards, which are so prevalent at all public places, the National Committee and Council, seeking the true interest and happiness of their people, have maturely taken this growing evil into their serious consideration, and being fully convinced that no nation of people can prosper and flourish, or become magnanimous in character, the basis of whose laws are not founded upon virtue and justice; therefore, to suppress, as much as possible, foreign agency.

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Resolved by the National Committee, That any person or persons, whosoever, who shall bring ardent spirits within three of the general Council House, or to any of the court houses within the several Districts during the General Council, or the sitting of the courts, and dispose of the same so as to intoxicate any person or persons whatsoever, the person or persons so offending, shall forfeit his or their whiskey, the same to be destroyed; and be it further

Resolved, That gaming at cards is hereby strictly forbidden, and that any persons, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a fine of twenty-five dollars, and further, any person or persons whatsoever who may or shall be found playing cards at any house or camp, or in the woods within three miles of the general Council House, or any of the General Council, or setting of the Districts Courts, such person or persons, so offending, shall forfeit and pay a fine of fifty dollars each for every such offence, and that any person or persons whatsoever, who shall bring into the Cherokee Nation and dispose of playing cards, such person or persons, being convicted before any of the Judges, Marshals or

light horse, shall pay a fine of twenty-five dollars for every pack of cards so sold; and it shall be the duty of the several Judges, Marshals and light horse companies to take cognizance of such offences and to enforce the above resolution; and

Be it further resolved, That all fines collected from persons violating the above resolution, the money so collected shall be paid into the national treasury: To take effect and be in full force from and after the first day of January next,

By order of the National Council .

JNO. ROSS, Pres't N. Com.

Approved - PATH(X) KILL R.
Mark

A. McCoy, cl rk of com.
ELIJAH HICKS, clerk of Council.