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BELL, WILLIAM E. INTERVIEW.

6424

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

February 11, 1937⁶⁵

Elizabeth McDonald
Field Worker

Interview:
William E. Bell

William E. Bell came to Delaware District, Indian Territory, with his father, Ollie P. Bell, in 1886, and although no relation to the famous Cherokee Senator, Hooley Bell, settled on his farm, where they lived for many years and where the elder Bell raised a family of eleven children.

When Ollie P. Bell became too old to till the soil, he moved into the little town of Big Cabin, only a few miles from where he first settled when he came to the Indian country from southeast Missouri. There he lived until his death, September 14, 1936, being ninety years old when he died.

William E. Bell was the oldest of eleven sons. He was engaged in the buying of hay in the town of Big Cabin for a number of years and was elected Justice of the Peace of Township 8 when statehood came. He holds tax receipt No. 1, being the first man to pay taxes in Craig County after statehood.

He was tag agent under three governors, Johnson, Holloway and Murray, and held the place for four and a half years. He was elected county assessor in 1932 and was re-elected in 1934 and again in 1936. His courtesy and efficiency in office easily won his third term, although it was a thing that had not been practiced in Craig County.

William E. Bell was 64 years old January 26, 1937. He was married to Rosa Ella Coffelt in 1894 in the city of Vinita. To this union, two children were born, Marion Reed Bell and Welma Lee Bell, both graduates of the Big Cabin High School and both taught school for a number of years. The son allowed teaching and is still teaching in the Tulsa Schools.