

THOMPSON, WILBURN

INTERVIEW  
SECOND INTERVIEW

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Indian-Pioneer History,  
Grant Foreman, Director,  
211 Federal Building,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Pete W. Cole,  
Field Worker,  
July 23, 1937.

An interview with,  
Wilburn Thompson,  
Choctaw Indian, Atoka.  
Age 73.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHOCTAW INDIAN  
METHODIST CHURCH.

Buffalo in English, or Yunush in Choctaw

Indian language is Buffalo. Hence the name of the Methodist Indian Church, which is located about four miles east of Atoka, is Yunush ok or Buffalo Creek Church. This name was adopted by the old timers who once lived and worshipped his God in and near this community in a little church which carries its name today.

One can travel today to the old Runo Post Office site on the old road now used only as community road, and go south about two miles where he will come to a branch. By following this branch a short distance he will find that it runs into a larger branch. At the time two men by the name of Wallace Armstrong and Josiah Scott were out hunting in this branch bottom when they ran across a large animal which they did not know. They knew that it was not a cow nor steer but never realized that it was a buffalo. They had not

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seen any buffaloes in this section where they were residing and to their astonishment they shot and killed him. To their surprise they found that it was a buffalo which they had shot, and the branch was named Buffalo Creek. Not so many years afterward when the members of the community wished to erect a church they picked a site near the spot where the animal was killed for the church to be built and named it Buffalo Church. These members consisted <sup>of</sup> Josiah Scott, elder, and my uncle, Wallace Thompson, my father, Pistubee or Thompson Billy, which is a name of one man, Jason Lewis, elder and my brother-in-law, Francis Webster, elder, and Wallace Armstrong and their families who were living near this location at that time. The Methodist Church was still unorganized and unchartered at that time but was organized later, although the year is unknown. When the church was chartered and organized, a log house was constructed and a few campers pitched their camps, and it was at this place that they held their meetings for several years. Later they moved the church to a new location where the present buildings are. There were five acres reserved for the church and burial ground

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