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INDEX CARD

Bigby family

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

March 15, 1937

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E. F. Dodson  
Field Worker

THE BIGBY FAMILY

The Bigbys are among the oldest settlers in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. They settled in Coingsnake District, now Adair County, Oklahoma. They have always been progressive, particularly interested in the upbuilding of the country, in education, in politics and in farming and stock raising.

We are unable to get an accurate history of the oldest Bigby who settled in this country but we have some old records of the births of some of them which we will give below:

Samuel A. Bigby was born May 18, 1833.

Mary Ann Bigby was born November 6, 1832.

James L. Bigby was born August 5, 1836.

Charlotte E. Bigby was born August 10, 1836.

Benjamin J. W. Bigby was born October 30, 1840

Stephen T. Bigby was born October 23, 1842.

Esther S. Bigby was born May 22, 1844.

Susan A. Bigby was born October 12, 1846.

Thomas W. Bigby was born April 23, 1848.

David T. Bigby was born January 27, 1849.

Samuel A. Bigby who gave us these records now lives five miles east of Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma. He is sixty years old. He is a son of David T. Bigby above, who was born in the Cherokee Nation, now Adair County, Oklahoma. The father of David T. Bigby was Thomas Bigby (not the Thomas Bigby above) who was born in the old Cherokee Nation in Georgia and immigrated to this country among the first. He settled five miles east of the present town of Stilwell, Oklahoma, near one of the best springs of water in the county. Here is where

David T. Bigby was born January 27, 1849. He grew to manhood here and married Miss Nancy Jane Williams. They were both Cherokees. They raised a large family here, Thomas, Samuel A., Mary, John, Arthur E., Zuma (deceased), Henry, Abe L., Martha, Walter A., and David L. All these still live here. David L. lives on the old homestead.

James L. Bigby who was born August 5, 1836, was a District Judge in the Goingsnake District and was prominent in his government. David T. Bigby who was born January 27, 1849, was prominent in his neighborhood and was the religious leader and is still highly spoken of and his life often referred to by many who knew him.

Thomas W. Bigby was born April 23, 1848. He was born in what is now Adair County, Oklahoma, grew to manhood here and married Miss Rebecca M. Thompson, a white woman. They settled five miles east of the present city of Stillwell, Oklahoma, near the David T. Bigby Spring, where they raised a large family, Walter Duncan, Charles Thompson, Thomas Benjamin, David E., Maude, Edward, Samuel A., Kate, Minnie. Walter Duncan Bigby, above, married Miss Sabina E. Adair. They were both Cherokees. They settled on the farm of his father and lived there until his death in 1916.

The children of Walter Duncan and Sabina E. Bigby are: Maude, who married Bill Barker, Mayme, who married Fred Martin, W. J. B., who married Callie Petty, Gladys, who married Zeke Adair, Clyde, who married Virgil Adair, W. D., who married Esther F. Dodson, Rufus, single, Col., single.

Walter Duncan Bigby was a very successful farmer and stockman. He owned and operated one of the largest and most fertile farms in this part of the country. On this farm, he had a fine home which was always a center of social life. His barn was one of the best. His farm was on the north side of the Evansville Creek and even in the droughts which some times occurred, he usually made an abundance of corn, oats, wheat and potatoes. It was here that the people came in

the spring for seed to plant, also for feed when it was scarce.

He was prominent in public life and was liked by all who met him. He held several offices, Court Clerk and County Commissioner, being Commissioner when he died.