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An interview with John Redmond Ketchum of Chelsea, Oklahoma as given to Mary Stockton, Indian Research worker.

Mr. Ketchum is a Delaware Indian of one-half blood and was born at Wyandotte, Kansas, now called Kansas City, Kansas, on September 12, 1866. His father, Jonas Ketchum, was a fullblood Delaware Indian, while his mother's maiden name was Jane May, a white woman.

Mr. Ketchum, the subject of this sketch, came to the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, in 1889 under term of a treaty between the Cherokee and Delaware Tribes by which the latter was adopted, merged into and became a part of the former. For several years young Ketchum lived in the home of Rev. Charles Journeycake, famous Christian Chief of the Delawares. This home was located near the present town of Alluwe, in what is now Nowata County, Oklahoma, and was a shrine for many of his tribesmen.

In 1892, Mr. Ketchum was married to Miss Hattie Pittsenberg, a white girl of German descent, and they settled a few miles southeast of Alluwe, in what is now Nowate County, Oklahoma, and have made their home in that community through all the years. They have children, all living, one son and five daughters.

The Ketchum home is a home of kindness, generosity and

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loyalty. As the old saying goes "the latch string always hangs outside the door and the hungry is never turned away."

When oil was discovered in the Chelsea-Alluwe field the Ketchum homestead was found to be in the heart of production, "liquid gold," flowing copiously from the wells drilled there and for a time the family income was almost princely, Mr. Ketchum was a wealthy man. But after the world war when the depression came, prices of oil ran low and the demand even lower and the Ketchum fortune vanished, like frost on a July morning.

Mr. Ketchum, now in his declining years, has long been one of the honored citizens of Rogers County, a congenial, public spirited man. His principal pride has been in the public High School of his community, known as Wingonon School. The name is a Delaware word meaning "Look Forward." The ancient Baptist church near by was organized by Chief Journeycake.

When a child, Mr. Ketchum was familiar with the language of his people, the Delawares, but his long association with English speaking people and through gradual passing of the native Delawares, he has practically forgotten it.

Mr. Ketchum speaks proudly and in glowing terms of the grand old Chief Journeycake, who did so much to civilize

and christianize the Delaware Indians. Says the old gentleman always gave thanks before meals and held family devotions before retiring at night; he remembers, distinctly, a visit to the venerable man during his last sickness and but a few days before his death. When a granddaughter brought refreshments to his bedside, and he raised his trembling hands, turned his almost sightless eyes toward Heaven and returned thanks to a merciful and all-wise God who always looks after His own. Delaware Indians from all parts of the Indian Territory and many from Kansas attended the funeral.