

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

LAWRENCE, BELL WHINERY DYER INTERVIEW

12685.

Field Worker's name Roosevelt Derrisaw.

This report made on, (date) January 14, 1938. 1938

1. Name Bell Whinery Dyer Lawrence.

2. Post Office Address Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1515 North Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth Joplin, Missouri.

6. Name of Father Mark Whinery. Place of birth Arkansas.

Other information about father Painter.

7. Name of Mother Fannie Francis Lankford Whinery. Place of birth Arkansas.

Other information about mother Housewife.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____.

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Roosevelt Derrisaw,
Investigator,
Jan. 14, 1933.

Interview With Bell Whinery Dyer Lawrence,
1315 North Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

I was born in Joplin, Missouri, and am now sixty-eight years old. I have spent most of my life around the Indians. The first Indians I got acquainted with when I came to the Indian Territory were Sam Sixkiller and his folks. I knew Dick Vann, a mean Cherokee, who didn't like Sam Sixkiller because he was a United States Marshal. When I lived over at Muskogee Dick Vann came into town one evening and lay in wait for Sam Sixkiller and shot him through the back and killed him. Then when Dick Vann scouted out I was forced by my folks to carry food to him and I sure used to be afraid of him. One day I rode on horseback with him and he said, "Do you know who killed Sam Sixkiller?" I replied, "I don't know". "Well, he said, "I killed him and you better not tell for I'll kill you if you tell on me". I never have mentioned it since until now.

My father used to haul freight for the Bluford Miller Ranch. I used to go to this ranch and pick up pecans and

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that's how I came to know him. We have lived at Tahlequah and south of Muskogee on Burt Harris' place. Burt Harris was a lawyer, a Cherokee.

We used to live in Okmulgee north of the Frisco Depot, west of an Indian graveyard, which is also located there. I know Captain Severs well; I have traded with him in his store at Muskogee. I own a cheese knife that Captain Severs gave me as a keepsake.
