

Nettie Cain
Investigator
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Interview with
Barney Leader
Holdenville, Oklahoma.

Barney Leader, Holdenville, Creek and Choctaw, was born in the Choctaw Nation, near Allen in 1871. Barney Leader's mother was born near Muskogee; his father, in the Choctaw Nation and his grandparents came from Mississippi. His father served in the Civil War and during the War they went north into Kansas. One of the family was Jim Leader. They were all Creeks, Choctaws and Seminoles. They returned to the Indian Territory after the close of the Civil War.

The Comanche and Kiowa Indians were uncivilized. They used to slip in and steal cattle and Indian ponies from the Creeks, causing lots of trouble.

One of the oldest hunting grounds was in

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the Kiamichi Mountains, and all the Five Civilized Tribes would go there to hunt deer, turkey, bear, antelopes and some buffaloes. The Indians would take the deer and bear meat, slice it real thin and dry it and in this way they could keep the meat the year round.

Barney Leader, when a child, lived on the Texas - Kansas cow trail. White men would come down and buy cows from the Indians and drive them back to Kansas. Most every week cows were driven from Texas to Kansas, taking several weeks as they had to travel very slowly, letting the cattle graze and taking their time. If the cowboys rushed the cattle, by the time the cattle reached Kansas they would be very poor.

Barney Leader has been a delegate several times making trips to Washington in the interest of the Indians, trying to get Oklahoma

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back for the Indians, trying to get the Government to stand by the old Creek treaty.

Cato Sells was Commissioner of Indian affairs and he assured the Indians that he would see that the Government gave them consideration. The treaty that was signed in 1790 by the United States Government said that the Government would give the Indians provisions such as good clothes and right payments of money. However, the treaty has not been carried out.

Barney Leader has made about fifteen trips to Washington. He made his first trip in 1914 and his last trip in 1936.

All the answer the Indians have received has been the offer to change the Creek treaty, but the Indians do not care to have it changed.