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Field Worker,
W. J. B. Bigby, S-149,
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(INTERVIEW WITH REV. GEORGE LIVERS)

George Livers was born in Flint District, Cherokee Nation of poor parents about April 15, 1871.

He was the son of Chulio Livers and Eliza Livers. Mrs. Livers died when she was ninety years of age.

George's grandfather and grandmother came from North Carolina about 1838 with the immigrants.

(EARLY LIFE)

George's early life was spent in Lees Creek community. He was raised in poverty. Therefore, he did not get an education. He was taught to work at an early age in order to help make a living for the younger boys and girls in the family.

The Livers were a large family, consisting of about nine children. It kept all of the family working to keep something to eat, although they usually raised enough to do them through the winter months.

(FARMING AND EDUCATION)

They owned a small farm on Little Lees Creek, near the old Salem school. Here on this farm raised such crops as beans, pumpkin, and corn, corn being the principal crop of that part of the country.

Corn could be used for food several different ways, so it was a very important thing with them. George did not receive much of an education--he only completed the second grade at Salem. The schools at that time were very poor in the Cherokee Nation. He does not

remember any of his old teachers at Salem. The building was of log construction, no windows, only one door that was cut next to the road so we had an open view to the only road that passed through this community from the west.

(GAME AND FISH)

Game was plentiful in the Lees Creek country at this time. Deer, turkeys, and squirrels and many other small animals were to be found. Many times old man Livers went out in the early morning before breakfast and killed a young buck. Squirrels were so thick the latter part of August that as many as ten has been killed out of one tree. Turkeys went in droves, numbering from three to thirty. ~~Turkeys are found yet~~ in the hills of this community. Deer is also found here.

Fish were plentiful at all times in the old days. Lees Creek was a noted stream for fishing. Mountain trout, black perch were the game fish to be found in Lees Creek. ~~All kinds of Suckers were also~~ found among these the White Sucker, Red Horse, Buffalo, Shad, and small perch.

(EARLY TOWNS)

Evansville, Dutch Mills, Uniontown, and Van Buren were the early towns ~~where~~ the Livers traded.

Evansville was their main trading point, also their main milling point. It was about ten miles away.

They usually went to the mill about twice a month. George being the oldest boy in the family, it was his duty to do the milling. He

and some of the neighbor's boys would go together, and it took them all day to make the trip.

(FURS AND HIDES)

Plenty of fur was to be found in the Indian Country. There was not much demand for fur for a long time. The price was very small, ranging from a nickel for an opossum hide to about three dollars for an otter. This animal has been found in several places in the Indian country in the early days.

A few have been killed on Lees Creek south of where they lived. Van Buren was the nearest fur market. Hides were used to make shoes at home.

Sugar was made from the juice of the maple tree. Mills were made from the elder bushes--these were used to catch the juice that ran from the notched maple tree.

Lime was also made in this country. Mr. Stepp was the early day lime maker. His kiln was located at the foot of Stepp Mountain. When they made lime they piled a huge pile of logs and placed lime rocks with the logs. When burned for about a day or so they let the fire burn out. Then the rocks were moved carefully, often crumbling to pieces. This lime was mixed with sand and made into mortar.

Mortar was used in daubing houses.

(CLOTHING)

They made their own clothing. Sheep were raised in the Lees Creek community. Their father has worked many days for wool.

The people that he worked for at that time were the Starrs who owned many sheep and cattle. These people also owned race horses.

(MEDICINES)

Cherokees did not have much use for a white doctor at that time. There were plenty of good doctors among the Cherokees. The most famed Cherokee doctor was Old man Wayne. All the medicines were found in the forests.

Communicable diseases were not known then. The only diseases that were common were Measles, Chills, Colds, and Consumption. The ^(last named) latter was the most dreaded and it killed more people than all the others put together. There was no cure for that. There were no

white doctors at that time, only a few at Evansville and Dutch Hills.

They were seldom called, only in cases of emergency such as shot.

Appendicitis was hardly known then. It is said that it was known in some parts of the Cherokee Nation.

They called Appendicitis then Cholera Morbus. This was treated by the use of fire. But it took an experienced medicine man to do it. Operations were unknown. These Cholera Morbus patients, who were cured by the use of this fire were treated this way.

The patient was placed on the floor flat on his back and it was the custom of the Cherokee people then that the women folks handled the fire.

He was treated first on his heart. Then the hands of this medicine man were placed over the fire. While the hands were warm they were placed on the effected parts. They claimed then the

medicine man was a witch and was able to drive away the pain.

To drive fever away they took a cup of water fresh from the spring and circled it over the head of the patient. Then after the fourth circle, he was allowed to drink of this water.

This was repeated several times or until the fever left.

(CATTLE MEN)

The early cattlemen were the Starrs and the Littlejohns. They did not drive their cattle through the country to market. Buyers would come from some other states and buy them.

(SECRET SOCIETIES)

The Livers were firm believers in the Kee-Too-Wah Society.

~~George is still a member.~~

(End)