

LITTLE, WILLIAM R.

INTERVIEW

7494

304

LITTLE, WILLIAM R.

INTERVIEW

7494

Interview with William R. Little
 Cushing, Oklahoma
 September 17, 1937
 Blanche E. Little, Interviewer.

William R. Little came from Illinois in 1880. He was Chief Clerk at the Pawnee Indian Agency. Then later, a trader with the Sac and Fox Indians. It was while living among these people that he was given the name of Chuck-a-walk-a-see (meaning little Fox). He was always known among the Indians by this name.

A very old Chief, Chick-o-Shuk, was dangerously ill and given up by his people to die. Mr. Little hearing this, went at once to the old man's rescue, caring for him and nursing him back to life and health. Upon his recovery, the aged Chief, as a token of his gratitude, bestowed upon Mr. Little the name by which he was thereafter always known.

It was in 1886, that Mr. Little was adopted into the Iowa Tribe of Indians. This was done as a mark of gratitude, for his having fed and clothed this

LITTLE, WILLIAM R.

INTERVIEW

7494

2

small tribe of people during a long and cruel winter when their annuities and supplies of food were withheld by the Government.

In 1892, Mr. Little "proved up" by paying the Government ten dollars an acre for the north eighty acres of his homestead in Payne County. This is the original town site of Cushing. After a certain number of people had settled on the town site, this money came back, not to Mr. Little, but to the town, for the purpose of building a school house. This money built what was considered a very fine school house, for those times. Later, the south eighty acres of his homestead went into the town site of Cushing.

Mr. Little was an exquisite penman. So fine is the work that he made a portrait of himself by using a looking glass.

Mr. Little died in 1903, aged fifty five years. He is buried in Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island, Illinois. The name of this burying ground is a Sac

and Fox Indian name, meaning "where we left our friends". On Mr. Little's marker are the inscriptions "Government Trader with Sac and Fox Indians. Adopted into the Iowa Tribe in 1886. His Indian name, Chuck-a-walk-a-see-Little Fox. Founded Cushing, Oklahoma, in 1892."

Mrs. Little and children have placed a memorial tablet on a building on block 32, opposite the City Hall in Cushing bearing the inscription:-

WILLIAM R. LITTLE

FOUNDER OF CUSHING

SLEPT HERE SEPTEMBER 22, 1891

TAKING THIS QUARTER SECTION

OF LAND AS A HOMESTEAD

THIS WAS THE OPENING TO SETTLEMENT

OF THE SAC AND FOX INDIAN LANDS

William R. Little made three runs into Oklahoma-Guthrie in 1889, ^{where he} secured neither land or lots; Opening of Sac and Fox lands 1891, ^{where} he took a homestead which was later made the site of Cushing; and the Opening of Kiowa and Comanche lands, securing a quarter section of land there.