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Creek Nation
Living Conditions
Devil's Shoe String

Interview with William J. Luker.
 By Henry Day, Field Worker.

June 6th, 1937.

I was born in 1872 in Wayne County, Tennessee, of Irish descent. I am 65 years old.

I came into this Indian Country, when I was twelve years old. This was Indian Territory then. Lots of Indians here then. Lots of wild game and plenty of fish in the streams. In those days all the streams were clear, and there were many wild springs. They never had big fields, but they all raised what they could. Sofkey corn every year, and another kind of corn they called flour. It is a blue corn, but that's very near gone. Once in a while you find some among the old settlers. They didn't like to work much then, but they didn't have to, because plenty of wild game for them to eat.

In the month of August they went to what they call fish killing. They poisoned the water with devil shoe string, which medicine does not poison the fish, but made them kind of drunk, so they came to the top of the water, but soon as the medicine settled down, the fish would be all right and lively again.

I have no time now, but will tell you some more, sometime about tribal laws and ball games.
