

INDEX CARDS

Immigration--Chickasaw Nation  
Churches--Chickasaw Nation  
Burneyville  
Masonic lodges--Burneyville  
Intermarried whites--Chickasaw Nation  
Wealthy Indians--Chickasaw  
Burney, West  
Farming--Chickasaw Nation  
Crime--Chickasaw Nation  
Culwell, Bill  
Turner, J. F.

Field Worker: Jennie Selfridge  
Date: February 27, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Ophelia Ann Webster  
Burneyville, Oklahoma

BORN December 23, 1870 in Ballard  
County, Kentucky.

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1896 Mrs. Webster came with her husband Rev. J. N. Webster, to Burneyville, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. Rev. Webster served as pastor of the Burneyville Baptist church for eighteen years.

At that time Burneyville consisted of a hotel, two general merchandise stores, a Masonic lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, and Woodmen of the World. There was only one church in town, but later a Methodist church was established.

The town was named after West Burney. Burney who was a Chickasaw Indian reared and educated his family at Ardmore. His first wife was a Mrs. Gaines who owned about three thousand acres of land and several thousand head of cattle. After her death Burney married a white woman.

Bill Culwell, was one of the early settlers of Burneyville. He moved in and operated the Burney farm, which consisted of two thousand acres of cultivated land. He Culwell, kept working around collecting land and cattle until at one time he was said to have been worth \$75,000.

J.F. Turner was another old settler, who settled and operated a farm west of Burneyville. His son, Waco Turner began work in the Texas oil fields several years ago as a laborer. He saved his money, slept in his old car at night, and began making small investments in the oil business. Today he is one of the richest oil men in Oklahoma, and maintains offices at Ardmore, Oklahoma.