

LUKER, WILLIAM J.

SECOND INTERVIEW #6955

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Henry Day,  
Field Worker,  
July 27, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. William J. Luker,  
Dustin, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1872 in Wayne County, Tennessee. I am of Irish descent and my post office address is Dustin.

I was twelve years old when my parents and I came from Tennessee over into the Indian Territory.

When the white people crossed the line into this Indian country, they had to pay for a permit, but when we crossed the line we did not have to pay. You might as well say that we slipped into this country.

After we got in, we did not stop until we got to old Eufaula, which was east of the present Eufaula. There were two merchandise stores in Eufaula. These two stores were owned by Colonel McIntosh and the Grayson Brothers. Colonel McIntosh and the Grayson Brothers were half-breeds- half white and half Creek.

These stores were Indian trading posts in those early days.

We went from Eufaula to Philip Raiford's farm; he

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was half Creek and half white. At that time he was a Lighthorse captain during the time of Indian law. This farm was fifteen miles west of the present town of Eufaula. We stayed on that farm for thirty-five years. When we were living on that farm, there were many Indian men, women and children near. They mostly belonged to Kialigee town.

In the summer time they would have what they called the Green Corn Dance. The Indian boys would invite me to come to the dance. The Indians fasted from morning until four in the afternoon. On the day they fasted they danced what they called a Feather Dance. The way they danced the Feather Dance was to take some little sticks about seven or eight feet long with feathers tied at the end. They danced with these feathers, for about thirty minutes and then they rested for about thirty minutes and they did that four times and after the fourth time, they would get in single file and go to the creek, and the leader of the dance would hit the water first. They would stay in the water for about thirty minutes, and then they would come back to the ground. Then they would eat supper and about eight o'clock would begin to

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dance and would dance all night. The next morning they would all go home.

After thirty-five years on Raiford's farm we moved two miles south of Dustin.