

HUMMINGBIRD & BIGBY.

DINNER PARTY

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Hummingbird & Bigby
Field Workers
October 19, 1937

Interview with C. L. Fletcher
Stilwell, Oklahoma

DOWNING PARTY

C. L. Fletcher, better known as Wren Fletcher, was the son of Benjamin Fletcher, a Cherokee politician during the Cherokee Nation days. Ben Fletcher was elected councilman from the Flint district several times. He was a member of that body when the Allotment Law was passed, causing the land to be allotted separately.

Benjamin Fletcher was elected on the Downing ticket as a councilman.

The information concerning these two great parties, the National and the Downing, as given by C. L. Fletcher pertaining to the origin of these parties was told to him by his father.

The Downing Party was started by the followers of Louis Downing who was the only almost fullblood Cherokee ever to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Before his time, the party was called the Ridge Party - that is before the Civil War. After the killing of the Ridges and others

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for signing the treaty accepting the Cherokee removal to Indian Territory, the name of this party was changed by Louis Downing to the Downing Party.

Mr. Fletcher does not know who the leaders were of the National Party, but he thinks it was some of the Bushyheads.

After the death of Downing, the Mayes were leaders of the Downing Party.