

BIGBY, W. J. B.

CEMETERIES--CHEROKEE  
CRITTENDEN

#7360

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**BIGBY, W. J. B.**

**CEMETERIES-CHEROKEE**

**BURIAL GROUND FORM**

**CRITTENDEN.**

**#7360**

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

**100**

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name W. J. B. Bigby

This report made on (date) August 20, 1937

1. Name (if any) of burial ground Crittenden Cemetery
2. Founded (date) Unknown By: Unknown
3. Abandoned (date) 1922 Why abandoned New Location
4. Present owners of premises Still Crittenden  
Address of present owners. Watts, Oklahoma, Route 1.

NOTE: Answer fully, if possible, questions 5 to 13 inclusive, here or on sheets firmly attached to this form.

5. Original owners of premises. Same
6. Give names of other persons who at one time owned the premises.
7. Approximate number of graves. Forty (40).
8. Approximate number of marked graves
9. General condition of headstones, including inscriptions. Fair
10. Number of inscriptions copied and attached. Seven (7). (Place each inscription on a separate sheet and attach all to this form).
11. Any other information you were able to gather about the burial ground including its history. Yes
12. Condition of the premises Good -
13. Detailed location of burial ground. SE-SE-SE.

14. Legal location of burial ground, County Adair  
Section Nine (9) Township Nineteen (19) Range (24)  
(north)

The plat on this form represents 640 acres, one square mile, and is subdivided into 40 acre tracts. The center of the section, and burial ground should be located accordingly. If possible, make additional subdivisions on plat to give more accurate location.

Number of sheets attached to this form 2


Interviewer,  
W.J.B. Bigby,  
August 20, 1937.

HISTORY OF CRITTENDEN CEMETERY

This cemetery, according to Still Crittenden, as told to him by his father, Nelson Crittenden, was started some-time during the Civil War. The father of Nelson Crittenden lived on the place before the War. There were no graves then. After he returned to his old home he found the graves there. There are five graves at this place that are really old. No one knows who they are.

After the War the Cherokees that lived along the Illinois River used this as their cemetery. Then at the death of Mary Crittenden in 1875, the cemetery was called the Crittenden Cemetery. The cemetery was abandoned about statehood. The community Cherokees agreed to get a new location if they could get government land. They all agreed to move their cemetery to the Tom Swake place which is several miles up the river.

This cemetery is not a government acre, but at the death of Nelson Crittenden he requested to be buried at home so they did. A year afterwards Mrs. Crittenden died and she wanted to be buried beside her husband. These are the last two that have been buried here since statehood. The cemetery is now in the field.

Inscriptions at Crittenden Cemetery.

Jencie  
Daughter of C.C. and J. Crittenden  
Feb. 7, 1895  
Sept. 22, 1895

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Mary Crittenden  
Died Sept. 1875

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Nelson Crittenden  
Feb. 23, 1921

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Infant daughter  
of  
Jim and Ella Swake  
Died 1909

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Mary  
Wife of  
Nelson Crittenden  
Died 1922, age 74 yrs.

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NOTE: Two graves; inscriptions in Cherokee, no dates.