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W. J. B. Bigby
Field Worker

Interviews: R. B. Choate
Robert Rhodes

RABBIT BUNCH AND HIS HOME

Rabbit Bunch was a full blood Cherokee, born in the Cherokee Nation in what is now Adair County, Oklahoma, in 1841. He attended the common schools and the National Male Seminary and obtained a good education. He was a leader of his people in many ways from the time he was grown until his death in 1894. It is said of him that he was one of the best orators in this part of the country and one of the shrewdest men.

Rabbit Bunch was a very successful farmer, having a very fine fertile farm in the valley of Salisaw Creek, just south of the present town of Bunch. (Bunch was named for the Bunch family) more accurately located in Sec. 27, T. 14 N and R. 24 E. His home was an eight room house built in a T shape and two stories high with porches on three sides, both above and below, with huge well-built chimney fireplaces of native sandstone. These chimneys and fireplaces were not only on the first floor but also on the second floor, making in all six nice fireplaces. Most of this old house is still standing and shows to have been one of the finest houses of the early days.

Rabbit Bunch held several offices of trust and rendered valuable service, perhaps the highest office he held being that of assistant Chief of the Cherokee Nation with Chief Dennis Bushyhead. He made the race for Principal Chief against Joel B. Mayes but was defeated.

He is buried in the old family (Bunch) cemetery which is only a few yards from the old home.

Jennie Chusulate born December 4, 1868, died March 3, 1914.

Wm. Chusulate died March 22, 1900, aged 53 years.

Lizzie Smith, wife of John R. Smith, born March 2, 1886.

George Christie, born January 19, 1906, aged 17 years, killed on R. R.