



Fugitive Saved Name for Last

Fugitives from justice often turned up in Indian Territory, where it was not considered polite or safe to inquire whence a newcomer hailed or why he had decided to move to the territory.

The Rev. Theo F. Brewer, a well-known missionary and educator at Muskogee for many years, told this story of one of those unknown fugitives and his dramatic end.

A white man of unknown antecedents was employed by an Indian citizen who had a ranch 20 miles from Muskogee. In the course of time, the white man was arrested on charges of stealing livestock. He was taken to Fort Smith, where he was convicted and sentenced to a term in an eastern penitentiary.

Later he was pardoned because of serious illness and his former employer offered to take care of him. While waiting for transportation at a Muskogee lodging house he rapidly lost strength and called for a clergyman. A messenger was sent for the Rev. Brewer.

When Brewer arrived, he talked with the man for a while and the man asked to be baptized. As the minister read the introductory part of the service, with satisfactory responses, he pronounced the man's name.

The convert rallied his strength and suddenly threw up his hands in a gesture of dissent and exclaimed: "Wait! Wait! I want to be baptized under my own name!"