

My father survived "Indian" Boarding School. His older brother did not. His name is Jim Ketcher (Catcher) born in 1913 Hulbert Oklahoma. He spoke only Cherokee until age 5 when he was taken to Seneca Boarding. I was fortunate to receive a detailed oral history before his death concerning his time at Seneca which I wrote down. Too much to share in a email. My father was a runner...meaning he ran from Seneca several times. He just wanted to go home and feared he might die at Seneca like his older brother Nathaniel at age 13. Several interesting accounts of running away and being caught. He also remembered taking care of a three year old (orphan?) named William Buffalo. William cried every night when the boys were supposed to be sleeping. This meant little William faced being physically punished everyday. Jim tried to comfort him at night gbut was punished too. Jim was able to help William arrange his bed at night to look like he was sleeping. Jim would let William share his bed...for comfort and doing so helped him to stop crying. Many stories like this of every day survival.