

WALTER BILLINGSLEY, NON-INDIAN
WEWOKA, OKLAHOMA
INTERVIEWED BY: BOB MILLER
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TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

EARLY DAYS IN INDIAN TERRITORY

(Yes Sir)

Well I'm going to start for the trial business. As far back as I can remember. I was born about eight miles from Salem, which was the county seat of Fullerton County, Arkansas. We lived on a farm there and in 1901 which is known - was know - everywhere - as the big drought year. We didn't make any crops so my daddy told us that we were going to move to Texas. And we did in a covered wagon - 1901. That's about 300 miles from where we left to the place in Texas where we landed. We stayed in Texas four years. My mother didn't have good health there, so my father decided that we come to Indian Territory. We made that move in a covered wagon too - in 1905, in the fall of 1905. Came to a little town called Stuart which was a new - a new place, just every house in it look like it had been built that year. Had a bank though, three or four good general stores, and two gins. And everybody raised - all the farmers raised a cotton crop. That was true up until 1917 or '18. Up 'till the First World War. Immediately - after the First World War - ((You tell me when you want to stop and see if this is going)) - Immediately after the war and in 1920, cotton had reached a plane where it was worth four times as much as it had been worth before the war. But in 1920 every body planted cotton and - ah - -

(All Right)

My name is Walter Billingsley - I'm 78 years old - Will be in couple of