Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION.
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

279

OSBORN, CHARLEY. INTERVIEW. 9293.

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson.

This report made on (date) November 16, 1937. 193

1. Name Mr. Charley Osborn.
2. Post Office Address Maysville, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location)
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Day Year 1853.
5. Place of birth Georgia.

6. Name of Father A. L. Osborn Place of birth Georgia
   Other information about father Deceased.
7. Name of Mother Mytha Lindsay Place of birth Georgia.
   Other information about mother Deceased.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

OSBORN, CHARLEY. INTERVIEW. 9293.

Maurice R. Anderson,
Investigator,
Nov. 16, 1937.

An Interview With Charley Osborn, Maysville, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1853, in Georgia. I came to the Indian Territory in 1900 and went to work on the Williams Ranch, about twelve miles southwest of Purcell in the Chickasaw Nation. Mr. Williams usually kept about fifteen hundred head of cattle on the ranch and each year at feeding out time, we would ship around five hundred head of beef cattle. Before the railroad was built through Maysville, we drove the cattle to Purcell and shipped them to Kansas City, Missouri.

Besides the cattle Mr. Williams handled, he had from four to five hundred acres of corn each year; he only raised corn to feed out his beef cattle.

There was very little cotton raised at that time and very few fences over the country and for roads most of them were just cattle trails; the branch line of the Santa Fe Railroad was built through Beef Creek, now Maysville, in 1902 and after that we drove all of Mr. Williams' beef cattle to Maysville where they were loaded and shipped to Texas.

There was a ford crossing north of Maysville on the river near where a Mr. Higginbottom ran a sawmill and grist mill; I believe this mill was established there in 1902.

We would have two roundups each year, in the early spring and in late fall; our branding was done right after fly time, usually right after frost and we always had around five hundred head of cattle to brand.

In those days if a white man was married to an Indian woman he was called a "squaw man". Mr. Williams was married to a Chickasaw Indian woman but I never did hear a one of cow hands call him a "squaw man". If you were married to either a Choctaw or Chickasaw Indian that gave you the right to all the land you wanted and Mr. Williams had several thousand acres under control.

I worked on the Williams ranch until 1907 at which time I moved to Maysville and went into the hay business.

By 1908 cotton raising was started in this surrounding country and there were several thousand bales ginned at Maysville in 1908. In 1908 the Washita River got out of its banks and caused a heavy loss to the farmers living along the river.

I now live in Maysville where I have lived since 1907.