

IRWIN, R. S.

SECOND INTERVIEW

4074.

441

- 8

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. HeadThis report made on (date) May 18, 19371. Name R. S. Irwin2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Okla.3. Residence address (or location) 707 North 7th. St.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Feb. Day 3 Year 18755. Place of birth State of Alabama6. Name of Father W.H.Irwin Place of birth AlabamaOther information about father Age 747. Name of Mother Rilda Ware Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother _____

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 _____.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. R. S. IRWIN
Chickasha, Okla.

By

Jasper H. Mead, Field Worker.

My name is R. S. Irwin. I was born in Alabama the 3rd day of Feb. 1875.

I came to Oklahoma 43 years ago. My first stopping place was a little town by the name of Muldrow, Indian Territory, Cherokee Nation. It is known now as Sequoyah County, Sallisaw being the County Seat.

That was about the time the Government was paying off the Cherokee Indians. It was called the Strip payment. The Court House at that time was on the side of the mountain, where the payment was made. I was present at that time and the money was hauled there in buggies and hacks. Those Indians had some gay times after they received their money.

In those days we never got over 50¢ a day for our labor but we could buy a 100 pound hog for \$1.50. I have bought many bushels of corn for 10¢ a bushel, and there wasn't any price on cotton seed. If you wanted to plant cotton, you just borrowed the seed from your neighbor or he would borrow from you.

I helped to build the second cotton gin that there was in that county. It was what they called a round bale

-2-

gin. We would cut cord wood all summer, and then use it in the fall to fire the gin with.

The Breedlove gin was the first gin in Sequoyah County. It was called the square bale gin.

The Kansas City Southern R. R. was the first railroad in that county and the Missouri Pacific was the second one. It came there about two years before I did-that would be about 2 or 3 years before the Strip payment.

Farming and cattle ranching were the biggest industries at that time. The clothing of the Cherokee Indians was very ragged until after the payment, then they went dressed more like the cowboy style.

John E. Johnson was the first sheriff of Sequoyah County. He was a one-half blood Cherokee.