

SIMS, A. J.

INTERVIEW

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

#8546

SIMS, A. J.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) September 17, 1937

1. Name A. J. Sims

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 318 North 5th Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 6 Year 1880

5. Place of birth State of Arkansas.

6. Name of Father R. A. Sims Place of birth Mississippi.

Other information about father Died at the age of eighty-seven.

7. Name of Mother Susan Varner Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about mother Aged seventy-two.

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 _____.

An Interview with Mr. A. J. Sims, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

By - Jasper H. Mead - Interviewer.

September 17, 1937.

My name is A. J. Sims. I was born in the state of Arkansas, March 6th, 1880, fifty-seven years ago, and came to Oklahoma when I was twelve years old and have been here ever since. The first place we landed when we came here was at Wayne or close to Wayne, which was a very small place with two or three stores and a blacksmith shop and we had plank sidewalks there which were very narrow and not much to them; I mean they did not cover much territory; this country around Wayne was rather hilly but mostly prairie with tall grass and a great many cattle. The main water supply came from dug wells and springs and there was very little farming around there because most of the land was all either open range or ranches.

Most of the labor consisted of ranch work, driving and looking after cattle and this kind of work paid in the neighborhood of \$30.00 per month, board and room. The Santa Fe railroad came by Wayne but the trains hardly ever stopped unless they wanted to haul off a train load of cattle.

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There has been some argument about the old Chisholm Trail which came out of Texas and went across Oklahoma into Kansas, but I have heard cowboys and old timers say that it came through my father's horse pasture, which is close to Wayne, and that it swung to the left and went right straight to Enid and that is how Enid got its name. The Government springs there is the place where the cowboys would always bed their cattle down and while the cattle were resting the cowboys would eat or "dine" so they turned the word "dine" around and called the place where the springs were "Enid".

There were plenty of outlaws around Wayne in those days. Forty-five years ago around through there we didn't have any schools or church houses that I ever knew anything about, and the only "laws" we had were United States Marshals. There were two United States Marshals there. The name of one was Grant Venson, and the other was named Lee Harris.