

INDEX CARDS:

Choctaw Nation  
Tribe, Choctaw  
Caddo  
Cattle Stampede

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Lula AustinThis report made on (date) August 11 19371. Name John A. M. Impson2. Post Office Address Durant, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 304 North 4th4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 22 Year 18765. Place of birth Indian Territory6. Name of Father Middleton Impson Place of birth OklahomaOther information about father Choctaw7. Name of Mother Mary Pess Place of birth OklahomaOther information about mother White

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

IMPSON, JOHN.A. M.

INTERVIEW

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Lula Austin,  
Interviewer,  
August 11, 1937

An Interview with John A. M. Impson  
Durant, Oklahoma

John A. M. Impson, Choctaw, was born March 22, 1876, near Bokchito on Impson prairie. He received his education in the subscription schools of the neighborhood.

One of his pleasant chores, as a young boy, was to ride twice a week for the mail. He would go horseback but it was not often that he had the pleasure of taking home a letter as in those days they did not correspond very often with their relatives and friends, a letter usually was business.

Some of the logs of our old home near Bennington are still on the site where the house was and the well is still there. I remember we dug three wells before we found water and finally we called in Dave Gardner, an old negro slave, who was called a water witch and with a stick he located what proved to be a good well at twenty five feet.

We did our trading at Caddo, and when the Indians received their large payment in 1853, the robbers were so bad in the Caddo Hills that my father left the money which was fifteen hundred dollars with Mr. Ainsworth. In a few days he sent me horseback for it, as I was a young boy he said

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the robbers would not think about my having money.

Lodie Hall had gathered his cattle up, eighteen hundred in all, and had them in a pen ready to ship. Someone, he supposed who was angry with him because the cattle had been getting in their crops, frightened the cattle and caused them to stampede. I was only ten years old and I will never forget the rattle of horns and hoof and the bellowing of the cattle as they came within about fifty yards of our house. My father was also frightened; he said if the leader started in the direction of the house they would all follow and we might be killed. They passed north of where Bokchito is now and stopped when they reached the bottom. He was several weeks gathering them up. Many long horns were torn from the heads of the steers.

When a little girl, Mrs. Impson lived in the Caddo Hills. There was a little creek near the house where she and her little sisters played and gathered button willow. One Sunday while her parents had gone to Church, she and her three sisters, ages five, eleven and eight, she being only three, were wading in the creek and gathering button willow, when a snake bit her eight year old sister. The closest house was one fourth mile but she and her five year old sister ran all the way there and

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brought Mr. and Mrs. Arrington back with them. They brought liniment and applied it to the wound. My eleven year old sister was bathing the wound with water when we returned. It was a poisonous snake but she suffered no ill effects.