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AGEE, WILLIAM T.

INTERVIEW

9742

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

AGEE, WILLIAM T.

INTERVIEW

9742

Field Worker's name John F. Daugherty

This report made on (date) January 20, 1938

1. Name William T. Agee

2. Post Office Address Roff, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Pontotoc County

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 18 Year 1857

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father George Agee Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Ann Ashby Place of birth Missouri

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 2.

AGEE, WILLIAM T.

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John F. Daugherty,  
Investigator,  
January 20, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. William T. Agee,  
Roff, Oklahoma.

My parents were George Agee, born in Virginia, and Ann Ashby, born in Missouri. There were seven children in our family. Father was a farmer. I was born August 13, 1857, in Missouri. In 1887 I moved to the Indian Territory, settling east of Wynnewood in the Chickasaw Nation. We saw nothing but Indians, dogs and cattle on our trip from Missouri. The weather was bad, and we had to wait several times for rivers and creeks to run down so that we could cross. We were enroute forty-three days from Baxter Springs, Kansas, to Wynnewood.

The first two years I was here were very hard years. The first year I raised three bales of cotton, had the cotton ginned at old Cherokee Town and the bales stayed on a platform at the gin until April before I even got a bid on them. I had a bunch of hogs and couldn't sell them for \$1.00 each. Hogs were plentiful but there was no sale for them, either dressed or alive. Corn was 15 to 20 cents per bushel. This was usually ricked in the fields and the ranchmen came and bought it, then hauled it away.

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The great pastime of the cowboys was coming to town on Saturday and shooting up the town. Many a time they shot between my feet to make me dance. If one refused to dance or became angry they shot the heels of his shoes off. I have seen them ride into the stores and shoot canned goods from the shelves. They occasionally rode into a poolhall in Wynnewood and played a game of pool while sitting on their horses. They were very fond of "squirrel cider" and Saturday was their day off, so most of them partook freely of this intoxicant, and everybody had a grand time. Those who were not drunk had much fun watching those who were.

Before the coming of the Gulf and Santa Fe Railroad through the Territory in 1887 there were not many towns in the Chickasaw Nation of any note. Tishomingo and Stonewall were the chief trading points. Neither of these towns had more than fifty residents except in Tishomingo during the legislative term. After 1887 towns sprang up in rapid succession; Ardmore was one of the first and most progressive.