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AUSTIN, B. M. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

9189

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

AUSTIN, B. M. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

9189

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) November 15 1937

1. Name Mrs. B. M. Austin
2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) R.#1
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 22 Year 1887
5. Place of birth Indian Territory

6. Name of Father C. A. Cole Place of birth Missouri
7. Name of Mother Fannie Clark Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother parents.  
Mother died at the age of 55.

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

AUSTIN, B. M. (MRS.)

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Jasper H. Mead

November 15, 1937

Investigator

Interview with Mrs. B. M. Austin  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born March 22, 1887, fifty long years ago, in the Indian Territory. The first place I came to, which I remember, was Mannville, twenty-five miles east of Ardmore. Mannville along about that time was a very small place, with three or four stores, a blacksmith shop and a church house that was also used for a school house; in the summer time we had our classes outside the building under a brush arbor. This building was a very small frame building, built out of cottonwood lumber. It was about 14 X 24 with two windows, one on each side, and one door which was located in one end. A large fireplace was in the other end. The country around Mannville was what I would call timber land with small prairie patches in it; the soil was white and sandy like.

The main water supply came from dug wells and springs; the bulk of the water for cattle came from the Washita River.

There was lots of ranch land and worlds of cattle. It looked to me like there were cattle everywhere.

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There was plenty of wild game such as deer, turkeys, prairie chickens, wild hogs and black bears. My brothers caught a little bear for me one time when they went hunting and I raised it as a pet.

There were plenty of Chickasaw Indians around Mannville, but they never did give any trouble. We kids never thought of being scared of the Indians. My father was one-half Cherokee, but he never would prove up. He thought that it was a disgrace to be part Indian. When he was on his death bed, he said if he got well he would go and prove up so it would help us kids, but he never did get well, so that being the case I am one-fourth Cherokee with no land nor Government payments.

I have been a housewife and helpmate of Mr. B. M. Austin the biggest part of my life. We have always been farmers and are farming now.