

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BOLES, W. M.

INTERVIEW

10370

190

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

BOLES, W. M. - INTERVIEW.

10379

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) March 28, 1938

1. Name W. M. Boles

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) South 2nd Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 15 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father Isaac Boles Place of birth Alabama

7. Name of Mother Martha Steward Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother Died at age of forty-five

Father died at age of forty years.

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 6

BOLES, W. M. - INTERVIEW.

10379

Mead, Jasper H. - Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
March 28, 1938.

Interview with S. M. Boles
South 2nd St., Chickasha, Okla.

I was born May 15, 1866, in Texas, seventy-two years ago. I came to the Indian Territory January 5, 1898, and the first place I landed was at Chickasha, a very small place. It was just a mud hole, didn't even have plank sidewalks.

There were only eight colored families in Chickasha when I first came here.

The first three brick buildings in Chickasha were the old Mississippi Dry Goods Store, the Citizens National Bank and the old court house.

I saw Al Jennings personally when they held him in the little wooden jail that used to sit on the northeast corner of the block where the new court house sits now. Jennings was being held for the robbing of the train on the railroad switch about two miles south of Pocasset.

There was a lot of ranch land around Chickasha and some of the ranch owners' names were Buck Sparks, George Bealer, Thad Smith, C. B. Campbell and Dave Hill.

BOLES, W. M. - INTERVIEW.

10329

-2-

There was lots of wild game around Chickasha, such as: deer, turkeys and prairie chickens. There were also some wild horses, some called them Indian ponies. These horses could and would run like deer.

Some of the United States Marshals I remember were Cris Madsen, John Shinn, Tom Burk and John Tucker. They all worked under the Arkansas law.

The first United States Judge at Chickasha was a man named Townsend, the first U. S. Commissioner was E. M. Payne, and the first clerk was J. W. Speaks.

Farming around Chickasha was done on a small scale and the principal crop was corn; I have seen some of this corn sell for 10¢ per bushel.

Most of the people around Chickasha made their living by raising cattle and horses or working for some one who did raise them.

At one time, Chickasha had the largest feeding pens in the United States and was commonly known as a cattleman's town. During that time there was more money turned over in one day than there has been in the last ten years.

Uncle Johnnie Hartman was the first chief of police ever elected to office in Chickasha.

BOLES, W. M. - INTERVIEW.

10379

-3-

It isn't anything to brag about, but I am the man who built the first fire under the first boiler to raise steam to make the first electric light shine in Chickasha. This steam boiler came from Houston, Texas.

I am a Stationary Engineer by trade and have lived right in Chickasha for forty years.