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BURBRIDGE, JAMES

INTERVIEW

#8266

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BURBRIDGE, JAMES

INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHY FORM

8266

WORKS PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) August 18, 1937

1. Name James Burbridge
2. Post Office Address Chickasha
3. Residence address (or location) 514 South 2nd. Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 8 Year 1864
5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father John Burbridge Place of birth West Virginia
 Other information about father Buried in Illinois
7. Name of Mother Sarah Jane McWade Place of birth Ohio
 Other information about mother Buried in Illinois.

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 Eight.



Thad Smith, Jr.
Interviewer
August 18, 1937

Interview with
James Burbridge
Chickasha, Okla.

I came to the Indian Territory in 1900, from Illinois. I had a friend who came to the Territory and returned home to Illinois. I asked him about the opportunities in the Indian Territory and he told me I could get any kind of a deal that I wanted and that they were raising more corn there than any where else.

After landing in Chickasha, I got a job as farm hand with Dan Garland, who was part Choctaw Indian.

I broke some land when I first came to the Territory; first I ran a disc over the prairie and when this was done, when there was moisture in the ground, it would cut the sod so that when it was broken out it would tear up just like old land and could be planted the first year with a lister.

Most of the wild game had been killed when I came to the Territory but occasionally I would see buffalo heads and maybe just the horns, as the bone men had gathered and sold all the bones they could find. There were lots of buf-

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buffalo wallows on the prairie. I noticed that the wallows were on what was called "hard pan land." After the buffaloes pawed it up into a dust, it was just as fine as powder. Some of the buffalo wallows were twenty feet in diameter, others not so big and they would hold the rain water until the sun dried it up.

The people in the Indian Territory were real friendly, a lot more so than in the North where I came from.

One year I farmed fifty acres of corn for Mr. Garland. He furnished the land, feed, seed, horses and farming tools, and boarded my wife and I, and gave me half of what I raised. I raised twenty seven hundred bushels of corn off of fifty acres. I sold the most of it to him for seventeen cents per bushel to feed to his cattle. He had eight thousand acres of land fenced and he had about six hundred head of cattle.

In 1906, Mr. Garland bought a fine Holstein bull in the North somewhere; he gave three hundred dollars for him. He used him about four months and then the bull died with tick fever.

The next year a dipping vat was built and all the

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cattle shipped into the country had to be dipped. Most of them were brought from the Texas coast and had ticks. The cattle brought from the coast were as wild as deer and were called "coasters."

When the Chickasaw Indians were allotted, J. C. Good and a man named Schlotterbeck would pick out certain pieces of land they knew would be good farm land and would tell some Indian that if he would take his allotment there, that they would give him lease money for it. These two men got a five year lease on a lot of Indian land and sub-leased it to cotton farmers on the third and fourth share basis. They paid the Indians a lease fee of twenty five cents an acre. The land produced about a half bale of cotton per acre and cotton was worth about eight cents per pound.