

JOHNSTON, GEORGE W.

INTERVIEW

9447

468

LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

469

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Field worker's name Robert H. Postman

This report made on (date) December 14 1937

1. This legend was  
secured from (name) George W. Johnston

Address Blanchard, Oklahoma, R. 3.

This person is (male or female) ~~White~~ ~~Negro~~ ~~Indian~~

If Indian, give tribe Choctaw

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank  
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets  
attached 3

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Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator.  
December 14, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. George W. Johnston,  
R. 3, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born September 13, 1884, near McAlester, in the old Choctaw Nation. My father was a Chickasaw and mother a Choctaw. My grandfather on my father's side was Jack Johnston and it was he who brought the Chickasaw tribe of Indians in the removal from Mississippi.

With them he brought many negro slaves who proved very loyal and useful; after being brought here these negroes and some of their descendants are now what is known as "Territory negroes."

After the Five Civilized Tribes were removed here each of the tribes was given a certain section of the country which were then given the names of Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole Nation.

In my very early recollection, McAlester was a town of one store which was owned by J. J. McAlester, an intermarried white man for whom the town was named.

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INTERVIEW

9447

- 2 -

My father liked the Chickasaw Nation best and so I was raised mostly in the Chickasaw Nation which then contained four counties namely; Panola, Pontotoc, Pickens, and Tishomingo. No agency existed at that time and a form of Indian Government was established for no other purpose than that of attending to Indian affairs. The Indian Courts were for Indians only; no white man was ever tried as an offender except in the United States Courts and all Indian offenders were subject to the tribal courts. If a Chickasaw Indian committed a crime in the Choctaw Nation he was then brought back to his own nation for trial. This was in fairness of the agreement between the tribes.

My uncle was Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

All farming was done on a very small scale and small patches of corn was raised for Tom Fuller.

I received little education. My first school was at the Indian Institute known as the old Rock Academy, located some four miles west of Wapanucka. Later I attended another Indian School which was located at Roff which has been discontinued a good many years.

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9447

- 3 -

Members of the Chickasaw tribe always kept several ponies, though the Choctaw tribe surpassed all other tribes in the keeping of Indian ponies.

The Indians were never rich, as has so many times been told for they have always been in as hard circumstances as they are today. However in later years many of them have learned more of the value of money.

I now live some twelve miles north of Blanchard, where I have lived for several years.