

FULLER, F. G.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History

FULLER, F. G. - INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Maud M. FinkThis report made on (Date) July 30, 19371. Name Mr. F. G. Fuller2. Post Office Address Clinton, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 225 So. 6th, Street4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 2 Year 18705. Place of birth Alexander City, Alabama.6. Name of Father G. Fuller Place of birth South Carolina7. Name of Mother Mary Wagner Fuller Place of birth Morgansville Georgia.Other information about mother Housewife.Father: Farmer and stock raiser.

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 Seven.

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Fink, Maude M.-Field Worker.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
July 30, 1937.

Interview with Mr. F. G. Fuller.
Clinton, Oklahoma.

I came to this country in 1891 and settled at Oakdale, twenty-five miles northeast of Ardmore.

The country was awfully rough and hilly and when the outlaws did anything they should not they went down there in those hills to escape the law. There were two men who carried guns for each other two months, then one finally killed the other one.

Grass was plentiful, it was tall blue stem grass and sage grass. People would bale up enough grass during the summer to last them all winter. All the stock ran loose as there were no fences.

Almost everyone were nesters; the farmers had their own stock and farm implements. This country was known as the Chickasaw Nation. The roads were round and round the fields; there were no section lines and when the people started anywhere they went the shortest distance. The roads were rough in places.

East of Oakdale there were some springs in the can-

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yons and there would be an oil scum on top of the water. The people then could not understand why this was. These springs are called Oil Springs.

The Chickasaw law was that any Indian could go ahead and put in a claim for land, just so he did not get too close to another Indian; some of the Indians controlled thousands of acres of land.

White men could go on this land by permission of the Indian. The white man would build a house, well and a fence, and live there five or ten years, according to agreement, then at the end of that period turn it all back to the Indian.

The Government finally made the Indians take allotments and they had to cut loose from their land, except what they could legally hold.

Oakdale was a pretty fair little town. There were stores here and there over the country and the mail hack that ran from Ardmore to Oakdale also carried passengers.

~~There were thousands of quail which were free to~~
everybody. There were also lots of deer but not so many prairie chickens.

For amusement a bunch of the neighbors would get

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together and go on a fishing party, have picnics and a singing at some one's house.

They did not have any Territorial Government; people were governed by ~~the~~ Arkansas law.

Ardmore was the closest railroad. There was ordinary trading at Oakdale, but when they wanted nicer things and for Fall and Winter shoes they went to Ardmore.

The squaw-men were white men who ^{had} married Indian women. These men would control the leasing of the land the same as an Indian would. Sometimes the white man would live with the Indian woman only six months, but he would still hold on to the land.

There were lots of snakes of various kinds, but I do not remember seeing any rattlesnakes.

I stayed six months when I first came, then went back to Missouri. I came back to this country in 1895 and this time I came to Marlow, just a small town then. There were four tent top joints where they would sell beer and whiskey. There were ten gambling places. This place was tougher than any place; everybody carried a gun.

There was a land drawing at Fort Sill. This land

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had belonged to the Comanche Indians and was a timber country; people lived in log houses and huts.

People would butcher hogs and beef for winter purpose, and had lots of milk and butter. They had more on the table and were more free and liberal with it than the people are today. It did not cost as much to live as it does now.

The Rock Island train ran from Chickasha to Fort Worth, Texas. Marlow was built on a cheap order. Little skeleton buildings were built. The flour and meal were shipped in to Marlow.

Fort Sill did not have a railroad. They came to Marlow to the train.

Quannah Parker was a son of Cynthia Ann Parker, a white woman who was captured by Comanche Indians in Texas, in 1836, when she was only eight years old. She became the wife of the great war Chief Peta Nocona who was killed by Texas Rangers in 1860 and Cynthia Ann Parker was taken by the Texas Rangers and returned to her relatives. She was unhappy; she longed for the Indian people and her two sons.

Quannah was about eleven years old when his mother was captured by the Texas Rangers. He became a chief

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and was opposed to the white men. He was a raider and pillaged until his final surrender in 1875. He then visited his mother's relatives in Texas and became an advocate of peace and modern ways. Quanah had more than one wife; he had several. He would come to Marlow to take the train to Washington to see the White Father, the President, and would always bring his youngest wife with him. Quanah Parker died at his home near Cache in Comanche County, February 23, 1911.

Fort Sill issued the Indians beef on foot. The Indians would run one beef down then take after another. After they had them all killed they would come back and begin eating the first one they killed, raw.

The schools were poor- not much school at all. Schools and doctors were much alike. A doctor could hang his shingle out and not know anything about medicine. A teacher was the same way, they could go and hire themselves out and begin teaching. The children were not graded so very much. The teacher did not receive a very high salary. The schools were subscription ones; there were no Government funds for schools.

Fort Sill was a Government Post; it was reserved by

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the Government for military purposes and target practice.
Lawton became a town with the opening of ^{the} Comanche country.

Geronimo was Principal Chief of the Apaches. He waged war upon the settlers in Mexico and Arizona for many years, but was captured by General Lawton in 1887, and he and a number of his tribesmen were imprisoned at Pensacola, Florida. They were later kept five years at Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama, then were brought to Fort Sill in 1895. Geronimo died in February, 1909, but before he died he gathered his tribe together to make war. He got as far as Rush Springs, then turned back to Fort Sill for protection.

The country was not very thickly settled. There were log houses with board tops, split by hand.