

JORDAN, CHRISTOPHER

INTERVIEW.

#12072
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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's Name Wylie Thornton.This report made on (date) October 28th 1937

1. Name Christopher Jordan
2. Post Office Address Colcord, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 10 Miles-East of Anasa, Okla.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 22 Year 1852.
5. Place of birth Washington County Arkansas
12 Miles West of Fayetteville.
6. Name of Father Jess Jordan Place of birth In North
Carolina.
Other information about father He died at my birth place.
7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Meryman before marriage of birth Born in
some Community 10 Miles west of Fayetteville,
Other information about mother Arkansas.

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 Eleven.

Wylie Thornton

Interviewer

October 28, 1937

Interview with Christopher Jordan
Colcord, Oklahoma

I was born ten miles west of Fayetteville, Arkansas, January 22, 1852, on my father's farm.

I was thirty-four years old when I came to the Indian Territory, in the Fall of 1883.

The first thing I did when I reached the Indian Territory was to get a farm job harvesting a crop for a man named Lew Williams; his wheat field was located just exactly where the town of Westville is now situated.

I worked for this man, Lew Williams, for eight years, and the longer I stayed the better I liked these good people, and the better I learned the ways and customs of the Cherokee people. The Bushyheads, Albertys and the Whitmires and Williams family made my young days all that a man could expect. They treated me better than I deserved; there was nothing that they would not do for me in the way of favors and deeds.

I have been closely associated with Old Judge Blue Alberty, Jake Alberty, Watt Whitmire and the Buffington people. We had many an old time gathering at Carrie Bushyhead's place. She was Chief Bushyhead's sister.

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After I had worked for these fine people for eight years I decided to marry a young Indian maid who was an orphan. Her mother died when this girl was only a few hours old and her father died about eight months before her birth. I married this girl in September, 1891.

We lived together until her death, in 1912. My wife's name was Susie Root and she was one-quarter Cherokee.

She had an allotment at Colcord and we moved on it after our marriage. When my wife and I settled on this place, in 1891, it was in a wild and wooded section of the Cherokee Nation. I will never forget how hard it was for a white man to get married to a native Cherokee.

When my wife and I were about to be married, I had to get a blank petition or rather a court form from the clerk of the Cherokee Court and get twelve good Cherokee citizens to sign my petition stating that my conduct was good and that they did herein petition the court and the Cherokee Nation to grant ^{me} a license to be married to a Cherokee girl, Susie Root.

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After my petition was granted I had to get twelve white men who had known me for a great number of years or who had known my parents and knew that I had a good reputation before I could get my marriage license.

When we settled on this wooded piece of land within ten miles of the town of Kansas, I was able to buy a pretty pony team and a housekeeping out-fit and an ax to start clearing out a truck patch and a field. I also bought some pigs for hog stock and my wife and I lived in plenty.

We made bountiful crops; the bees made plenty of honey in the near-by trees; we had plenty of venison meat from the wild deer, and the wild pigeons covered the earth twice a day, in the morning when leaving their roosting places and then just before sun down when going back to their roosting places.

It has been a great mystery to the Cherokee people as to what has become of these great swarms of wild pigeons which are all gone and the tradition is this: God sent a great storm and gathered all these birds up and blew them all into the sea and drowned them all and the reason for his doing this was, that God had

prepared this great number of birds just for food for the Indians and when he saw that the white man was starting to kill them he did this thing. This is why the pigeons all disappeared at one time and were not killed out as the deer were.

My children attended a public school named Minnehaha school.

Once I went hunting and late that evening I was standing on a mountain, listening to hear the wild turkeys going to roost. I heard something running in the leaves and I turned and looked and saw a bunch of turkeys flying right slowly and a large wolf running in the leaves under them. He was waiting to catch one if they lit on the ground. They lit in a tree right over me and I shot one down. They flew again and this wolf took out after them again and the wolf and I both kept up the chase. When I had killed three gobblers I slipped up and killed this turkey-treeing wolf.

Index Cards

1910

Crane--Cretaceous

Trails

Anting--Cretaceous

Rocks--Kiamichi River

St. Louis, and San Francisco

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NAME: H. G. JORDAN.
COR 5th and Jackson Sts. Hugo,
Personal Interview.

HAZEL B. GREENE. FIELD WORKER
INDIAN- PIONEER HISTORY, S-149
April 21, 1937

Place of Birth. Tennessee.

NOTE BY FIELD WORKER

H. G. Jordan is 58 years old. He operates a little grocery store and filling station at the corner of North 5th, and Jackson Streets, in Hugo.

Owns the three residences nearest to the store. Is really a Pioneer here. Came to Paris, Texas, in 1887 when the Frisco Railroad was built through here, which was Indian Territory. He was here through the building of the road, and was a fireman for two years, on the run from Paris to Talihina. That was the division then.