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INDEX CASES

- Physicians--Chickasaw Nation
- Medicine Men--Chickasaw
- Dances--Chickasaw

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

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) May 14 1937

1. Name Dr. J. H. Blackburn, story

2. Post Office Address Ada, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Ada, Okla.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1875

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father S.J. Blackburn Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father Deceased

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother Deceased

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 2.

STORY TOLD BY DR. J. H. BLACKBURN.

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I came to the Indian Territory from Arkansas, in 1902 and settled at Stonewall in the Chickasaw Nation.

At that time around Stonewall, it was a very rough country- no roads to speak of. I had to do most of my traveling on horse-back. I believe people in those days were more afraid of dying than they are to-day. I have been called out in the country many a night and when I would get there, after riding horse-back seven or eight miles through rough country, the sick one would be better. Sometimes it would be a case of the stomach ache, caused from eating too much supper. After I had been practicing medicine a while at Stonewall, I saw that I never was called on by any of the fullblood Indians, so one day I asked a man, if any of the Indians around Stonewall, ever had to have a doctor. He said they had their medicine man, and when one was sick, they would have a sick dance, and drive the evil spirits away. I told him to let me know the next one they had, I wanted to attend. A short while later, I heard of one and I saddled my horse and rode over. When I arrived the dance was going on. They were out in the front yard, at the home of the sick one. I watched them for quite awhile. They had a fire out in the yard and a big pot on the fire cooking something. This dance would go on until the evil spirit left the sick one or the sick one died.

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I have been to several of their sick dances and in some of these cases if I had been permitted to doctor the sick one, I could have had them well in one day's time, not only me but any doctor could have saved the sick one.

I have had to examine several Indians for an insurance company, when I would ask them what caused the death of their father or mother they would say "sick and die" and that was all I could get them to say.

The doctors in those days had a very hard time. On many a cold rainy night I have saddled my horse and rode for miles getting to some sick person and maybe never get a penny for it. Now adays with fine roads and high powered cars, we can drive seven or eight miles and wait on the sick person and be back home in one hour's time and get maybe three times more money than we would get in territorial days.

I have been a doctor since I was 23 years old. I now live in Ada, Okla.