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BLACKMON, E. M. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

10153

285

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Lillian GassawayThis report made on (date) February 28 19381. Name Mrs. Emma Methvin Blackmon2. Post Office Address Augusta Georgia.3. Residence address (or location) 1417 Anthony Road.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 21 Year 18805. Place of birth Georgia6. Name of Father J. J. Methvin Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Emma Beall Methvin Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother _____

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 3.

Lillian Gassaway
Investigator
February 28, 1938

Interview with Mrs Emma Methvin Blackmon
1417 Anthony Road, Augusta, Georgia.

Allotment of Indian Lands.

This information was gotten from Mrs. Emma Methvin Blackmon of 1417 Anthony Road, Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Blackmon was Chief Clerk at the Anadarko Agency at this time. He followed Col. Randlet as Indian Agent.

My Father, J. J. Methvin, born in Georgia in 1846, is 91 years old.

My Mother, Emma Beall Methvin, was born in Georgia in 1846 and died 1904.

Inspector Nesler was placed in charge of allotting the Indian Reservation in 1900. He had no original maps or plans from which to start his work. He was given a very limited time to complete it. Everything that was to be used in this work had to be specially provided. There were dishes, cooking utensils, tents, bedding, horses, wagons and everything else had to be specially provided.

There were about 2,000 allotments to be made covering about 4,000 square miles. This covered right at 111

2

townships. This made the three counties, Caddo, Comanche and Kiowa.

Mr. Nesler was to make an allotment to each and every man, woman and child without omitting one and without allotting more than one place to anyone person. Mr. Nesler had never had any previous experience in this kind of work but he went to work and made original maps and plans. And in the very limited time given by Congress finished up his work with a good record, with only a very few errors and they were only minor ones.

Once in a while an Indian was allotted a place in a location that he didn't want, then a change would have to be made. It was hard to get the Indians to make their choice. One Indian changed his mind several times and then after the report had gone to Washington he changed his mind again but it was too late to make any more changes then.

The land on the north side of the Washita River was handled by someone else. But when Mr. Nesler finished with the south side of the river, he was ordered to take his crew across the river and help finish over there.

The Rock Island Railroad Company had made a contract with the Government to survey the reservation, but thinking

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289

3

it was a hurry-up job, they were not very accurate in their work. However, this was corrected before any serious damage was done.