

KEITH, S. A.

INTERVIEW

#8207

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

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KEITH, S. A.

INTERVIEW

8307

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.

This report made on (date) August 13 1937

1. Name S. A. Keith

2. Post Office Address Chickasha

3. Residence address (or location) 1214 South 5th St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 23 Year 1855

5. Place of birth South Carolina.

6. Name of Father George Keith Place of birth South Carolina

Other information about father Buried in South Carolina.

7. Name of Mother Mary Robinson Place of birth South Carolina.

Other information about mother Buried in South Carolina.

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 _____.

Thad Smith Jr.
Investigator
August 13, 1937

Interview with
S. A. Keith
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My family and I came to the Indian Territory in March, 1900, from Illinois.

A friend had come to the Territory and he induced me to come by writing me of the large crops of corn raised on the Washita and Little Washita Rivers.

I landed in Ninnekah, and at once rented a farm from George Beeler. He had a pasture six miles square, fenced, and besides he had small blocks of land of one hundred acres broken along the river and creek bottoms which were also fenced. He rented this bottom land to the farmers on the shares.

Mr. Beeler owned a store at Ninnekah and sold to his renters on time. Then in the Fall he would buy his tenants' crops which were mostly

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corn. Corn made forty to fifty bushels to the acre and was worth about 20 cents a bushel.

Mr. Beeler had lots of cattle to which he fed this corn and other feed.

I did very well farming with Mr. Beeler but the next year I made a deal with a fellow named Schlotterbeck, to improve two hundred and sixty acres of land, by breaking the land and by building a house and barn and corrals.

Mr. Schlotterbeck furnished the lumber and I built the buildings and broke the land, and for doing this I was given the first two crops which I planted in cotton and corn. The cotton made about a half a bale to the acre and the corn made forty-five bushels to the acre. I sold the corn for .18 cents per bushel, and I believe I got .07 cents for the cotton.

After I had gotten my two crops, for my work, I made the same kind of a deal with the same man on another piece of raw land on which I did equally well.

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I knew some full-blood Indians and considered them as good friends as I had. I have eaten with them and one of the items of food I remember was persimmon bread. This was made by mashing the seeds out of the persimmons and baking what was left. This bread was eaten with meat or dipped in grease and eaten.