

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

386

#7305

THOMPSON, NED.*

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) August 20, 1937

1. Name Ned Thompson

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1 mile north and 1 mile west of Rock Store.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Unknown Day Before Year Civil War.

5. Place of birth On South Canadian River 14 miles west of Eufaula.

6. Name of Father Quash Gilbra Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father Came here in 1832.

7. Name of Mother Maggie Cow Tom Place of birth Don't know
Alabama.

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 _____.

THOMPSON, N.E.

INTERVIEW

Grace Kelley,
Interviewer:
August 20, 1938

An interview with Mr. John
A. I. Henry, 1938

Grandfather was an Indian
lot of boys who were named
of the cows all the time
calling him "Cow Boy" which
according to his story to keep
name stayed with Grandfather all his
was made to sell the land
forced to follow his master to
trade. That trip was made to be

There were no towns on the
southwest of Fort Smith on the
Checotah, due northwest to

High Spring

As they were going northwest they passed
saw some birds flying toward them. He thought there must be
water up there and the birds had been there to drink but others
said it was too high a hill to have water on top of it. They

THOMPSON, B.

INDIAN

went to see and learn a story.

before 1840. It is a story of a man who

out the sun, as the sun came out.

explored about the

Grandfather

and children were

In the Florida War.

War as it was just between

When the

just as they did the

clothed just as the

Grandmother came

lived.

Grandfather was an interpreter in 1866.

Slave order

The only negroes who were to work were the ones who belonged to the half-breeds. As the Indian didn't do work he didn't expect his slaves to do much work. Two acres was a big farm and the Indians would have from eight to ten negroes to attend which was plentiful. The negroes had little log huts with dirt floors around their owner's house. Most of the Indians

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INDIA

wouldn't sell the land

the negroes usually had

slaves who were

N. McIn

and

everybody

So when some

and needed

negroes to

needed. Some

Texas to

INDIAN WARRIORS

I was a boy and my father and mother were going to Fort Smith. We went through a battle where many dead persons. Some were white and some were negroes. There was a house of seven miles east of High Springs. There was a house of seven and there were some who were living in the house but the wounded were in there on beds. One of my sisters had bad dreams and cried all night because of what she had seen. The dead were

THOMAS H.

INTERVIEW

In the corner

Honey Springs Hole in Honey

It was on that same trip that we had to
pass Honey Springs. We had to stop
it for we loved a hole in the ground
water in the springs, and we had a

When the War Came

When the war came...
Fort Smith and the Indians...
the Creek Nation...
Government had taken...
the Government could...
of 1866 was signed.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Cherokee Nation 1890
and November 23, 1905.

Every member of the Council was given these books as I
was a Council Member I received them. I
wouldn't sell them unless I received...

All the Tresties from 1832 on down are in them. That includes
a list of the negroes adopted into the Creek tribe. My father's
name is among them.

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Each white man had to take his own slaves and say, "This is my slave" for no one else would know him. So as a rule the slave took his master's name. One old negro was owned by Grayson so they started to write his name Grayson but he said that he didn't want his name put down Grayson that he wasn't an Indian and his daddy was a negro. As he didn't know his daddy's name he asked to be called "Old Suttin" as that was the name he was used to be being called.

Commission From Muskogee Nation

"Commission of the Muskogee Nation, Okmulgee, May 1, 1883, October Council, Ned Thompson, Stock Superintendent

Signed

Saml Checote,

H. E. Porter, Private
Secretary.

GREEN PEACH WAR

Samuel Checote was the Chief. Isparhechar didn't like the Creek Constitution and rebelled against the Indian Government and the Creek tribe was divided. My people and I were on Checote's side. The people who lived out here by the Rock Store were on Isparhechar's side.

One scrimmage took place on a flat rock west of Okemah

THOMPSON

where seven or eight men
sides. My cousin and I were on the
tain, and had some other men
men.

I was
We were going west

east. We didn't see any

At ten o'clock in the morning

passed the bar and

Chief of the bar and

and the government

who captured the

Gibson. After they

diers escorted them back

didn't go out but gave orders

make them obey the Creek

Manager at that time, he was

Colored Men

Canadian Town-----North Fork Town-----Arkansas Town

THOMPSON, MISS

INTERVIEW

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Baptist- Colored Church

Old Agency--North of Muskogee

Old Fountain-- Across the Arkansas

Cain Creek Church-- East of Okmulgee

Cow Tom is buried in the cemetery

High Spring

The old Indian settlement was located north of Hitchata. My uncle who lived in this town was all burned down during the Civil War.

Old Trail 1872

This old trail went between Fort Sill, Indian Territory. General Sherman's army passed through on it in 1872. It crossed the Arkansas River north of the place where Muskogee is, passed through Okmulgee, and passed over a steep hill on this porch. There were no towns then, but that house go north two miles from the Rock Store which is six miles north and one east of the Okfuskee and Okmulgee County line, turn to Highway 75, turn west one mile, south to the second house, turn west about a block or a quarter of a mile. This house is Katy Rentic's old home. The Government Trail in the Civil War went

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from Muskogee to Hoffman, crossed at Grayson, came to the Rock Store and went on somewhere close to Spring Hill or Pharaoh.

Council House at Okmulgee

I was a strong young man when they tore the old log house down and rebuilt the new Rock Council House. I had a wagon and team and helped with the hauling. After the log house was torn down it had to be hauled away. All lumber was hauled from Muskogee mostly by ox teams. The rocks were native stone from south of Okmulgee. I remember Bill, George and Mr. Fryer and Frank Wilson, Mr. McDermott who owned the store near Okemah did the stone work. C. E. Turner was the man at Muskogee who sold the building material.

Creek Punishment
Muskogee Nation

The price of the article wasn't considered in those days. It was as bad to steal a lead pencil as a cow or horse. If you stole a pin or a horse the penalty was fifty lashes for the first offence, a hundred for the second offence and death if you were caught stealing the third time. If you stole some stock and a person saw you driving them away he came to you

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and told you where they were when he saw them and if he knew you he told who was driving them or described you as well as possible. Everyone helped to keep stealing down. Then you had a trial and you had to prove that you didn't steal them if you were innocent. If you proved that some person had told a falsehood on you, just to get you, punished this person and the punishment you would have gotten so there wasn't much perjury. One time I followed a pack of horses from sixty miles east of here clear to the Texas border where I found them and brought them back.

The Indians and the Government broke the treaties. Now I haven't anything against the Indians but they are always saying that the Government broke all their treaties. They never say how they broke them all themselves. The Government wouldn't allow anyone to live in the Indian's country without the Indian's consent. He charged 1.00 a month for that consent. Then the Indians allowed the non-citizens both black and white to marry their daughters and to raise halfbreed children. The Indian had no control over these non-citizens, if they committed a crime the Government had the expense of finding, convicting and punishing them. When the country was

getting full they asked the Government's protection. It was too expensive for the state of Arkansas. It was just bleeding that state to death and when the Legislature tried to find where all the money was going it was to the Indian Territory. When they tried to tax the Indians to pay these expenses they found that it couldn't be done. Each of the Five Civilized Nations sent men to meet with the Committee of Interior. Charles Curtis and Henry Dawes were two of the men but they met the committee separately. They found that the Indians had broken every treaty including the one about fighting with each other. In the treaty which the Indians are always quoting about the land being theirs as long as grass grows and the water flows east there is a clause that says that no state nor dominion shall have the right to control nor govern the land of the Indians. It didn't say one thing about the Congress having the right to change or make laws governing the land. So in 1836 the law was passed to divide the land among the Indians. To do this there had to be a roll of each and every Indian. I helped make the roll of the Creeks when I was about forty eight years old. At the meeting at Eufaula to sectionize the country Willie

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Sapulpa asked, "Does you mean to give land to the negro?" They said, "Yes, you took them into your tribe as one of the Creek Nation in the Treaty of 1866." Willie Sapulpa said, "I not do it." Gen. Porter made a speech and said that there wasn't anything else they could do. That as they had broken every treaty they had not one leg to stand on. So the negro got his land, not because he had Indian blood in him but because after the Civil War he had been adopted into the Nation.

Government Schools.

These Government schools were to teach the Indian the ways of the white man. They were supposed to use English in talking as well as in reading and writing. When the Government found that the money was being wasted, as the Creek language was being used in the schools, they stopped them. Principals of the Schools were: William Robertson, Wetumka Mission, Luka McIntosh, Mufaula, Willie Sapulpa, Sapulpa, Johnson Tiger, Okmulgee Mission.

Wild Life, Forest, Etc.,

There were some bears in the mountains; they were

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between a red color and brown. There were Mexican cougars, too. In the bottoms the forest was so thick that you couldn't see and twelve o'clock noon was as dark as midnight. The grass was so high at this time of the year you had to keep the stock "belled" that you would want to use for you couldn't see it. The grass was as high as this ceiling and a man riding on a horse would get wet with dew to his waist. Acorns would be three inches deep in the forests and that was what the hogs lived on. Big fish were plentiful.