

INDEX CARDS

Royal
Robertson
Pauls Valley
Whitehead Hill
Social gatherings--Choctaw Nation
Fur trade
Neighborliness--Chickasaw Nation

Field Worker: Jennie Selfridge
 March 29, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. S. J. Worley (White)
 1011 3rd Street N. E.
 Ardmore, Oklahoma

BORN Sulphur Rock, Arkansas
 - Batesville County
 July 3, 1855

PARENTS Father, Langston Worley, North Carolina
 U. S. Army officer, Surveyed Union & Pacific
 Railroad
 Mother, Elizabeth Williamson, Georgia

My father, Langston Worley, was born in 1806 in North Carolina, but most of his farm was in Virginia. He was a graduate of West Point, an officer in the United States Army, and helped move the Cherekees out of Georgia. Here he met and married my mother. After the removal the family settled in Georgia, though father never stayed at home much. Later he resigned from the Army and helped survey the Union and Pacific railroad, before the Civil war.

Mother was very dissatisfied with living in Georgia, and some of her friends had moved to Sulphur Rock, Arkansas, bringing their slaves with them, so mother moved to Sulphur Rock.

I was born at Sulphur Rock July 3, 1855. In December of 1889 we moved to the Indian Territory. I first settled at a place called Royal, located in Section one, township four west, range one north. I farmed seventy acres of land near this location. The town consisted of a post office, store and a gin. Later I moved to Robertson, which was located in section twenty one, township three west, range one north.

I ran a drug and general merchandise store at Robertson. I was also Postmaster, and Notary Public; also owned the first telephone line from Robertson to Foster. This line connected with Pauls Valley via. Elmore. I did most of my trading at Wynnewood.

I knew the late Colonel Sneed, forty six years ago. He and one of the Rennie^{men} operated the Sneed and Rennie store at Pauls Valley. At this time Sam Garvin lived at White Bend. Every Christmas Garvin would entertain from forty to fifty people at his home. On one Christmas, Garvin and his friends decided to go to Pauls Valley to celebrate. They got in a wagon and drove to Paul Valley. At the time Sneed and Rennie were buying a good many furs over the country and kept them stored in a side room attached to the store. The usual Christmas rush was on, and all of the clerks were busy in the front part of the store. The Garvin "gang" went to the side room, stole the furs, carried them around to the front of the building and sold them to Sneed and Rennie for \$87.50. Most of the money they spent in the store.

The next morning Rennie decided to make a check-up on his furs, and went into the side room to count them. It was not until then that he discovered that he had been tricked into buying his own furs.

I was personally acquainted with the Grants, Pauls, and Rennie of Garvin County. In 1904, I moved to Ardmore. I was in very poor health and not able to hold a regular job. The first year I was in Ardmore I sold text books to Physicians in and around

Ardmore. A little later I began collecting for Dr. Anderson. I also collected for Hunts Planning Mill.

Every one had plenty at that time. Church was held at every school house, every one came to church in wagons, and you could not tell the biggest cattle owner from the poorest lease holder, unless perhaps the lease holder might have one or two more patches on his trousers. Every one had some stock, and raised their own bread. There was no poverty unless some poor man moved into the territory; then he was helped by all of his neighbors until he made a crop.

I was the first clean up man appointed by the City government to clean up the city of Ardmore. I had the city hauling outfit at my disposal. When I first began work there were some back alleys in Ardmore that one could not get down on horseback. I covered every lot in town, and then started a mosquito clean up.

My wife and I have been married fifty seven years. For the past thirteen years I have been practically an invalid, but have been bedfast only seven years. I fell on the ice seven years ago and injured my spine, and have been unable to walk since.
