

CASON, GEORGE R.

INTERVIEW

10179

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

CASON, GEORGE R.

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead,

This report made on (date) March 9, 1938

1. Name Mr. George R. Cason,

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 9 Year 1890

5. Place of birth State of Georgia.

6. Name of Father James R. Cason, Place of birth Georgia.

Other information about father Age 71; still living.

7. Name of Mother Addie F. Powell, Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother Age 67; still living.

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

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Jasper H. Mead,
Investigator,
March 9, 1938.

An Interview with George R. Cason,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is George R. Cason. I was born October 9th, 1890, in the state of Georgia, forty-eight years ago. I came to the Territory when I was sixteen years old and the first place I landed was at Chickasha.

Chickasha, when I first came here, was a very small place and didn't have any pavement, and the town part only reached from the Rock Island depot west to Third Street.

We had plank sidewalks and dirt streets and I have seen the time when you would have to cross Main Street in a boat. I helped to put down the first pavement that was put down in Chickasha.

Chickasha was surrounded by several big ranches which made this place a very nice little cattleman's town. In fact, that was what it was called.

When I first came to Chickasha there were no highways but there were four trails that came into the town and they were called Indian trails. There were not very many

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Indians around Chickasha; they were farther west, toward Anadarko, which is where the Government stationed the most of them and which was their headquarters.

The main water supply around Chickasha, when I first landed, came from dug wells and from the Washita River. The water from the Washita River was used mostly for stock water as the Washita River then was mostly a clear stream, and cowboys driving cattle from Texas were always glad when they reached the Washita River for they knew their cattle would get plenty of water. This was the best watering place they came to after they left Red River. Chickasha, in those days, had the largest feeding pens in the United States, only one place had us beat and that was in Argentina.

People who have lived in Chickasha longer than I have tell me that in 1902 Al Jennings was held captive in the little wooden jail that used to sit at the northeast corner of the street where the new courthouse is now. This small wooden jail is ^{now} kept at the Shannons Springs Park which is about two and a half miles southwest of Chickasha.

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Johnnie Hartman was the first Chief of Police that Chickasha had and a fellow of the name of Hopkins was the second one.

I went to work for the Rock Island and quit November 1st, 1917. Since then I have been in a grocery store and in the cattle trading business.