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Negro  
Chickasaw Nation  
Chris Wadsen

Thad Smith, Jr.  
Field Worker.

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

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Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) June 16 1937

1. Name Henry Clay

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1214 south 2nd Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 8 Year 1864

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Joseph Clay Place of birth Texas

Other information about father Buried in Texas

7. Name of Mother Mary Place of birth Texas.

Other information about mother Buried in Oklahoma.

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.  
Field Worker.

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An Interview With Henry Clay  
Chickasha, Okla.

I came to Oklahoma in 1899, from Texas, where I was born.

Being a negro, I saw the possibility of making some easy money, running a gambling and drinking house, and catering to the negroes in and near Chickasha.

There was lots of work being done by negroes, and they were paid good wages. Every pay day I could figure on an unusually large crowd at my place of business, and it wasn't unusual to see a man get killed over some small remark.

Gambling and selling whiskey was against the law, and I always kept a lookout posted in the front of my establishment. When an officer of the law entered, my lookout pressed a button which rang a small bell in the rear, where I kept my whiskey and my gambling tables. We could easily dispose of our whiskey and cards by the time my doorkeeper unlocked the door.

Later though, there was so much kick about places like mine that Chris Madsen, then a United States Marshal, came to Chickasha to put a stop to it. Mr. Madsen had the reputation of being a hard and tough enforcement officer, and was respected to some extent, because of his

reputation. I closed my business while he was in town, but a bootlegger, that went by the name of White Mule, was arrested by Mr. Madsen. As they started to cross an alley, White Mule made a break to run, and was shot down in the leg by Mr. Madsen, and then clubbed over the head with a pistol until it killed him.

not

It was/unusual for some cowboy to get drunk, and ride his horse up the street on his way home, and shoot out the street lights

There were a few Indians that traded in Chickasha, but the most of them traded at Anadarko, twenty miles west of Chickasha.

In 1902 or 1903 Black Smallpox hit the town. At first only the homes were quarantined, but later it was so bad that the whole town was quarantined. Lots of people died.

In 1900 lots of farmers made sixty to seventy bushels of corn to the acre, which was worth about fifteen cents a bushel.

We had more rain then, ~~than~~ now, and several times during the big rains, the water was so deep in the low parts of town, that people had to move out on the hills.