

DODD, W. C.

INTERVIEW

12546

50

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

DODD, W. C.

INTERVIEW

12546

Worker's name Johnson H. Hampton
Report made on (date) December 28 1937

Name Mr. W.C. Dodd, a pioneer

Post Office Address Antlers

Residence address (or location) _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 7 Year 1871

Place of birth Plainville, Georgia.

Name of Father _____ Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother _____

or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and
of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects
questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to
form. Number of sheets attached 4

DODD, W. C.

INTERVIEW

12546

Johnson H. Hampton,
Investigator,
December 28, 1937.

An Interview with W. C. Dodd,
Antlers, Oklahoma.

I was born February 7, 1871, at Plainville, Georgia, and I was about twenty-eight years old when I came to the Indian Territory. I located in the Chickasaw Nation at a little place called Durwood near Ardmore. My father and mother did not come to this country; they lived and died back in Georgia at the old home place. I came over by train by myself and the reason of my coming here was that I had it in mind to come to the Indian Territory for some time, having heard that it was an ideal place for a young man who wanted to make a living and try out a new country. Consequently I left my home and came over and settled at this place. When I landed at this little place I got a job working in a drug store where I worked for awhile. I then came to Antlers in the Choctaw Nation, in 1904 or '05; at that time there were a good many sawmills in the country, stealing and cutting yellow pine timber belonging to the Choctaws and the Government sent some officers down through the timber country and stopped all the

DODD, W. C.

INTERVIEW

12546

- 2 -

sawmills from cutting the timber. I don't know what it was done for but any way they all stopped their mills for a short while but I guess they got the matter adjusted as they were allowed to run their mills again. It was in the latter part of the year that I came down to this country; the mills had all started to cutting lumber when I came and I got a job at one of the mills stacking lumber out on the yard. The mill would cut the lumber, then I would stack it for them and I got 65 cents per thousand for stacking this lumber on the yard.

In 1907 I worked for a man of the name of Miller, at his mill for awhile; I then quit his mill and went to work for a firm known as the Walker-Hopkins Lumber Company. This firm had several mills in the country at that time and I worked for them for awhile, I then went back to the Chickasaw country, rented some land and farmed that year and after I gathered my crop I came back to Antlers, got a job at Shorty Creek Mill which was about twenty miles north of Antlers; this mill was owned by the Walker-Hopkins Lumber Company and Shorty Creek was the name of the creek that this mill was on. They then transferred me to Turkey Creek this mill was owned by the

DODD, W. C.

INTERVIEW

12546

- 3 -

same company. I worked there for awhile. I then went to work for T. E. Bourland at what is now known as Finley, he had a sawmill there; that was in 1912, and I am still working at a sawmill; that has been my occupation ever since I came to Indian Territory.

When I came to this country from Georgia there were but very few white people in the country; there were none out in the country, they were mostly around the sawmill camps, they had no schools at these mills and no churches so the children around the mills did not have the opportunity to attend church or go to school. When I came to this country I was a young man and came over on a train and not being married I lived in the boarding houses at these mills. I finally got married and raised several children and they are all living in this country.

This country was a fine country then with lots of good timber, both pine and whiteoak, and lots of game and the people did not have to work very hard to make a living here then. The country was open, there were no fences, only small farms, not over four or five acres, that belonged to the Choctaws who did

DODD, W. O.

INTERVIEW

12546

- 4 -

not farm but very little as they made enough corn on those small farms for their bread and the grass was fine, the cattle stayed fat all the year around and most of the Indians had cattle and hogs around their small farms and were living fine, but today there is not anything to speak of the timber gone, game all gone and most of the Indians are gone. Many of them have died out and there are not many Indians in the country today. I think that the Choctaws just let the sawmill people steal all of their timber; they did not get much out of it as the lumber was shipped out of the country to other states so the Choctaws were left without any revenue from their timber as they should have had if they had been treated right by the sawmillers.

My experience with the Indians has been good; they never did bother me nor give me any trouble as long as I have lived here among them. In fact, they never bother anyone else and they are all my friends that I know of and I know a good many of them throughout the county. They are the best people to live among I ever saw among any tribe of people. I am now living in Antlers, working at a sawmill as usual.