

ONSTATT, CHARLES

INTERVIEW

#8858

237

ONSTATT, CHARLES.

INTERVIEW.

#8858.

Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator.
October 12, 1937.

Interview with Charles Onstatt,
Route #3, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in Texas, September 29, 1854.

I came to the Indian Territory in 1886. When I came to the Territory I settled at Tuskahoma, a trading post. The Frisco Railroad was being built across the Choctaw Nation at that time.

At Tuskahoma I took the contract to build two miles of railroad for the Frisco Railroad Company.

The only transportation in '86 was by stage coach. They were drawn by horses, usually four horses but sometimes as many as eight big horses were worked to a coach.

The country was just a big open space filled with all kinds of wild game.

Large cattle ranches had been established. Very few people lived in the Territory then except Indians and territorial negroes. The Indians were very friendly

ONSTATT, CHARLES.

INTERVIEW.

#8858.

2

especially the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

Several railroads were built prior to 1900.

My main object has been to help develop the railway systems of the State. I have helped to build every interstate railroad in the State except the Katy and the main line of the Santa Fe.

I now live some eighteen miles southwest of Norman.