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Frank J. Still
Field Worker
January 26, 1937

SUBJECT: Judge J. T. Parks
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

I was born January 13, 1862 on Cow Skin Prairie in I. T. Father's name, Thomas J. Parks - mother's name, Ann Thompson. My mother said that when the men came to kill John Ridge, his wife grabbed him and held him, the man hacked her fingers with a butcher knife. After John Ridge and his father were killed, my mother got scared and took us children to Missouri. Later when the war broke out, a soldier came to our house, hitched our horses to the buggy, went in the house and piled everything in the middle of the floor and set fire to it. They took one of our colored girls, loaded her into the buggy. Mother then took us children to Texas by way of Skullyville and Hartshorn. After the war mother brought us back to Cow Skin Prairie.

We had a large farm there, but while we were in Texas the sassafras sprouts took our farm, and we went farther out on the prairie and made another farm. There was snow on the ground when we got back home, and the wolves were about to take the country. Later they took the range and lost all their hair, so a large number of them froze to death. I remember seeing dead wolves in our chimney corner.

We lived on the old Military road west of Fort Gibson near Wagoner. In 1865 and 1867 we made a crop. I saw wild pigeons so thick they darkened the sun when they flew over.

My father died in 1881. He was a captain in the Confederate Army. He was in the battle of Cabin Creek and helped Stand Watie capture the Union supply train there. They went west and around the Red river and got away with the supplies. My father, after the war, got 2 wagons and 2 span of black mules, and that is how we came back to the Cherokee Nation from Texas. The mules were branded U.S. and my mother was afraid they would take them away from her, so she made strong lye soap, put it on the brand, and all the hair came off. As long as we kept them, the hair never came back. My father tore the wagons up and changed them so they would not look like army wagons.

We raised a crop in Texas. We ate cornbread all the time. The corn mill was run by oxen going round and round. It would take all day to get our turn of meal.

When we got back to the Nation, the Government had confiscated all the southern soldiers homes and sold them. Our home was sold to a widow woman. The Council rescinded the law and paid the money back for farms sold. Father went to see about our home. He left his pistol with mother. She traded it off for a mare pony. We raised a large head of horses from this pony.

The first school I attended was in Honey Creek at Elijah Butler's school on his place. Aunt Nan Edmonston taught here. I later taught school at the same school. Elijah Butler started a Mission here 1853, called Elijah, but it burned down. The Methodist conference gave it the name of Butler.

Field Workers Name Wylie Thornton

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This report made on (date) September 6 1937

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
Biography Form

1. Name
Mr. ~~W. S.~~ Miss J. T. Parks

2. Other name _____
In the case of married woman or widow, give present name on line 1 (i.e. Mrs. John Doe) and maiden name on line 2 (i.e. Myrtle Smith). Indians usually have two (or more) names, a white man form of name, and a regular Indian name. Place Indian name on line 2.

3. Post Office Address Tablequah, Oklahoma.

4. Residence address or location of home _____

5. Date of birth January 13 1862
Month Day Year

6. Place of birth Delaware District, Cherokee Nation.

7. This person is: (place circle around correct word) Male or Female
White, Negro, Full blood Indian, Mixed blood Indian,
Give Indian tribe Cherokee

If possible, give degree of Indian in mixed bloods.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (valuable but not essential) In case of mixed bloods show race, tribe, etc., of parents.

8. Name of Father Thomas Jefferson Parks Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father Born November 10, 1821. Died in 1881.

9. Maiden name of Mother Ann Thompson Place of birth _____

Other information about Mother Mother's mother was a Lynch and a Cherokee Indian.

INSTRUCTIONS: Write as plain as print. On line 1 indicate Mr., Mrs. or Miss by circle around correct word. When any of above questions cannot be answered, give reason, or check with # to show that question was not overlooked. Attach firmly to this page sheets containing notes or complete life narrative of person interviewed. Refer to manual for suggested subjects and questions.

Number of sheets attached 5