

PARK, SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW.

#12875.

Charline M. Culbertson,
Investigator.
January 19, 1938.

Interview with Samuel Park,
McAlester, Oklahoma.

I was born in Crawford County, Missouri, in the year of 1845. My parents were James and Roxanna Park. Both are buried in Missouri.

I came to Indian Territory in 1872 and located at Canadian in the Choctaw Nation. I started three-fourths mile from the place I was born. I had a good team and one saddle horse. I wanted to come to the Territory and raise cattle where the grass was good. I first began doing odd jobs for the farmers and did a little farming for myself down near the Canadian River. I bought and sold a few cattle. Farming was no different than it is today, however, we used the two horse plow, cultivator and harrow. I had no personal friends among the Indians.

During the Civil War I stayed in camp and did the cooking and cleaning of guns and wagons. We were stationed all over Missouri.

There were three stores in Canadian when we moved there, operated by John Toole, J. C. Park and J. C. Phillips. The

ARK, SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW.

#12875.

2

school was located on the hill east of Canadian. The Baptist Church was on the west side and it was here that they later had school. I was at Indianola in Choctaw Nation when that little town first began to build. Mr. Cornelison and Jim Bynum first started Indianola. Jim Johnson and myself put the roof on the first store building, which belonged to these two men. The old Indianola was up on the hill from where it is today away from the Canadian River. I recall no roads or trails. We got our mail from Muskogee and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

At the time I lived at Canadian the dispute over the railroad coming through the Territory was in discussion. Crews were hired and stationed between Muskogee and Durant. These crews sat idle for some time before the Indian Government gave them the permit to start laying the rails. How the crews were fed and cared for during this time I do not recall.

In 1889 we made the run from Chandler to El Reno. There were forty in our group; only one man was lucky. Brother

PARK, SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW.

#12875.

3

Osborn was our captain. For two days and nights we had no food; it was impossible to get anything as there was so many people there. We were unable to get anything to eat until we had reached Oklahoma City.

We had big camp meetings at Arbeca in the Seminole Nation close to the Canadian River. We would camp here months at a time. Some one would be cooking all the time. Each day a different one would donate a beef or pork. As to the preachers' names I do not recall. Everyone was friendly and anyone welcome to attend.

[illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible]
 [illegible] -- [illegible] -- [illegible]