

## BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. MeadThis report made on (date) December 14, 1937

1. Name Mr. P. H. Hart
2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) Route #2.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 30 Year 1879
5. Place of birth State of South Carolina

6. Name of Father H. L. Hart Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father Died at the age of 65.

7. Name of Mother Matilda Jones Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about mother Died at the age of 84.

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 4

Interview with P. H. Hart  
Chickasha, Oklahoma

Investigator - Jasper H. Mead  
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149  
December 14, 1937

My name is P. H. Hart. I was born March 30, 1879, in the state of South Carolina, fifty-eight years ago.

I came to the Indian Territory in the Spring of 1899, and the first place I landed was at Cottonwood Grove, now called Verden. There were lots of Indians around Verden in 1899; they were the Caddoes.

Johnnie Jackson was a full-blood Caddo Indian and was the interpreter for the tribe. I have seen these Indians, not at picnics, but in their every day walk of life, dressed in their native dress with just their breech clouts on and blankets thrown around them; these were the days when a squaw man or one who had just a little Indian blood in him would not claim his relationship to the Indians.

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The Rock Island Railroad was built from Chickasha to Verden in the Spring of 1899, and was extended on further West to Mountain View.

There wasn't much farming around Verden in those days; most of the land was in big ranches. W. G. Williams was a big ranch owner and he owned what was called the Half Moon Ranch; it had lots of fine grass and worlds of cattle on it. W. G. Williams worked lots of cowboys and paid them \$30.00 per month, board and room, and furnished them with horses and saddles.

The main water supply around Verden came from dug wells and dripping springs.

They had a small school and church house close to Cottonwood Grove called Fates Mission; this school was an Indian school.

General Lawton, a man working for the United States Government, captured the last Indian chief and the last wild Indian the state knew anything about; his name was Chief Geronimo, and he had

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5,000 warriors at the time he was captured. They say that when Geronimo saw that he was surrounded he walked out in front of his men and surrendered in order to save his men. Chief Geronimo had enough white mens' scalps to make an overcoat.

The town of Lawton was named after General Lawton, the General who captured Chief Geronimo.

The kind of officers we had around there were United States Marshals. They were hired and paid by the Government to look out for outlaws and to take care of the interests of the Indians.

I have lived in and around Chickasha for thirty-eight years and I have been a farmer and a mechanical worker all these years and am now employed at the Hart Cotton Machine Company, owned and operated by a brother of mine.