

PICKETT, JOE.

INTERVIEW

12565

357

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

PICKETT, JOE.

INTERVIEW

12565

Field Worker's name Roosevelt DerrisawThis report made on (date) December 28, 1937Name Joe PickettPost Office Address Okmulgee, OklahomaResidence address (or location) 1406 North AlabamaDATE OF BIRTH: Month Unknown Day Year 1863Place of birth GeorgiaName of Father Thomas Pickett Place of birth GeorgiaOther information about father Store keeper and farmerName of Mother Margaret Place of birth GeorgiaOther information about mother Housewife

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 2.

PICKETT, JOE.

INTERVIEW

12565

Roosevelt Derrisaw.
Investigator,
December 28, 1937.

An Interview with Joe Pickett.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

I came from Georgia, with my parents in the year of 1890. I came by way of Birmingham Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and settled in Texas, and later moved north west into Greer County, Oklahoma territory where I worked as a hired hand on the W. E. Tomlison ranch. I plowed the fields and cut down cottonwood trees along Elk Creek for the cattle so they could eat the cotton buds; I also helped herd the cattle. The ranch was located seven miles west of the Headquarter Mountains, as they were called. The only people who lived along the Elk Creek who had a ranch were W. E. Tomlison, Albert Taylor, Bill Bailey, and W. E.'s nephew, Odis Janes.

Whenever they'd graze the stock they would turn all of their cattle out into one herd and the three men would herd the cattle all day. Each herd of cattle had the owner's brand which enabled owners to tell which cattle belonged to him.

PICKETT, JOE .

INTERVIEW

12383

2

The only trading post in that part of the country was the Wood Post office, where the people in the surrounding country all traded .

The house I lived in was a house built of oak lumber. The house was built four feet into the ground with sliding windows. There were two doors, one the door of the house, the other a door such as a cellar has, which we called the storm or rain door. Most of the ranch men during those times lived in dugouts.

After spending a few years in Greer County I moved further north up around Shawnee, where I worked on a farm and later moved to Okmulgee, in 1911. My first acquaintance after moving to Okmulgee was with the Mortons, Indian brothers, who at that time owned a store here in Okmulgee.

My grandparents were of Cherokee and English descent.