

MCCARTY, CLOID

**INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM**

13013

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Johnson H. Hampton

This report made on (date) February 23 1938

1. Name Cloid McCarty

2. Post Office Address Antlers, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 21 Year 1867

5. Place of birth Pike County, Arkansas

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth Arkansas

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about mother _____

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

Johnson H. Hampton
Investigator
February 23, 1938.

Interview with Cloid McCarty
Antlers, Oklahoma.

I was born March 21, 1867, in Pike County, Arkansas, and came to the Indian Territory some time in 1891 and located in Antlers. I came over horseback and it took me several days to come to my destination. My mother had moved to this country and located in Antlers several years before I came over, my father having died in Arkansas.

When I came to Antlers this town was very small; in fact, it was just a small village with about three stores in it. There were lots of big trees right in town and lots of timber around the town, and there was a lumber yard on the edge of town.

There were but very few white people living in town and there were none out in the country; this country was wide open at that time. There were no houses much in the country the only houses being an occasional Indian house. The Indians did not live in town, but were out a few miles from town. On Saturdays they would all come to town; this town used to be full of Choctaws on Saturdays and it looked like everyone of them would carry some kind of a gun or a pistol.

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At first I did not know what to think of them for I had not seen Indians before and was not used to seeing people with guns on out in public. I sure did not know what to do nor what to think so I began to ask about them and the people who had lived here among them told that they were good people and would not hurt me and that they did not bother the white people, but would kill one another.

When I came here the town had no schools but there was one church, a Methodist Church which is still here and is being used as the First Methodist Church. Since then they have built several churches; the Catholic people built a church here and then they opened up a school here. But before that time a Presbyterian preacher came here and put up a church, then put up a school which was called the Brantly school. This school ran until Statehood or sometime before Statehood. The town people finally got together and put a public school then the Brantly school ceased to exist; they now have a good public school in the town.

When I first came here and located there were lots of wild game, such as deer, turkeys and all other game big and small and there were lots of fish in the creeks and Kiamichi

River. We used to see the fish floating on top of the water and could get out on the shoals and kill and catch all the fish we wanted in a little while. All we had to do was to get out away from the house and kill all the turkeys we wanted and deer, too, for the country was full of them. There were bears in the mountains; some of the people would kill bears and sell them to people who lived in town, and the Choctaws would sell venison to people in town. Some of them would sell a pair of venison hams for about 25¢ and turkeys for about 25¢ a piece, which was very cheap.

When I first landed here I worked as a day laborer and then I rented land and began farming on a small scale. We raised corn and some cotton but at that time there was no gin here so we did not raise cotton much. We had to go to Paris, Texas, to get our cotton gined but could sell our corn here at home.

The Choctaws had small farms; they did not farm much at any time. They all had cattle and hogs and they did not have to farm much to get by for the country was full of wild game that they could kill.

I have never been to an Indian camp meeting nor did I ~~ever see their dances, or their cries.~~ I did attend one of

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their ball games; they sure did have a ball game and it looked to me like they were fighting instead of playing a ball game.

I have been among the Choctaw people ever since I came here and have raised my family here. The children have attended school with the Indian children, and have associated with them all their lives. I have traded with them ever since I have been here and I find that the Choctaw people are a fine people.

My father died in Arkansas and my mother died here in Antlers and is buried here in the Antlers Cemetery.

I have never held any office in the country, but was at one time the head janitor at the State Capitol for three years after Statehood.

I was here when the Locke war was on. I did not see it but I was in town when that war was pulled off at Locke's house and saw the soldiers when they came down to quell the disturbance.
