

ROBERTSON, LEE

INTERVIEW

8078

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

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Field Worker's name Jimmie BirdwellThis report made on (date) July 26, 1937

1. Name Lee Robertson
2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) Southwest 33rd and Clegern
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 16 Year 1874
5. Place of birth Cook County, Texas

6. Name of Father Alex Robertson Place of birth Indiana
Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother Jenny Wilson Place of birth Texas
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 _____.

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Jimmie Birdwell

Field Worker

July 26, 1937

Interview with Lee Robertson
Southwest 33rd and Clegern
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Lee Robertson moved with his father by wagon in 1883 to Caddo, in the Choctaw Nation. Their home, on a rented forty acres, was six miles southwest of Caddo, in Big Blue Bottoms.

When they moved from Texas they crossed Red River at the Colbert Ferry, north of Denison, Texas, the only ferry that Mr. Robertson knows of for twenty-five miles up or down the river.

They brought twenty brood sows with them from Texas. The country they moved to south of Caddo was all open range. They raised lots of hogs but did not have any market for them, their own meat was all that they got out of the hogs.

Their main crops were feed and corn. They also raised plenty of garden stuff.

Mr. Robertson made ties for the Katy Railroad and also made rails. He worked by contract, making as many as 10,000 for one man. He received seventy-five cents

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per hundred for rails.

Mr. Robertson said that for the first few years after they moved to Caddo they never went outside the house after night, and always carried guns in the day time. They would even take the guns with them when they went to church.

The church was also used for a school house. It was built of logs. Most all houses in the country were log houses and they had rail fences around the farms.

There was a bunch of white men around Caddo who were tough. They usually got in with some Indians and would get the Indians to drinking whiskey. They would then talk the Indians into raiding some farmer. Sometimes they burned the farmer's house.

Hunting was good for coon, opossum and skunk. A few mink and bob cats and some turkey were to be found. A few panther were seen, also, but it was thought that they were only traveling through the country for Mr. Robertson said that a panther would often travel several hundred miles across the country.

It was years after they came to Oklahoma before

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. the Robertsons had a cast iron cook stove. Before this time they did their cooking in the fireplace. The house where they lived was one large log room with a large fireplace at each end of the room.