

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

42365

Field Worker's name Salfridge, JennieThis report made on (date) June 1 193 7

1. Name Dr. Thomas Peter Howell (One-Sixteenth Choctaw)
2. Post Office Address Davis, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 3 miles west, one north of Davis.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 29 Year 1849
5. Place of birth Regletown, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory
6. Name of Father Dr. Calvin H. Howell Place of birth North Carolina
Other information about father Died when Thomas P. was 12 yrs. old.
7. Name of Mother Rhoda Pitchlyn Place of birth Mississippi
Other information about mother Sister of Peter Pitchlyn.

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 5.

Interview with Dr. Thomas Peter Howell
Box 218, Davis, Oklahoma.
Father-Dr. Calvin H. Howell
Mother-Rhoda Pitchlyn

I was born at Eagletown, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, August 29, 1849. My family lived just east of the Peter Pitchlyn farm, which was located on the east side of Mountain Fork. We had a large farm there and owned a large number of slaves, as did my Uncle Peter P. Pitchlyn.

I first attended school at a Mission on Mountain Fork. I believe this was called the Mountain Fork Mission. Chamberlin was one of my teachers, and Byington was the missionary there. I later attended school at Center, Arkansas, and then entered Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tennessee. During vacation I would visit in Washington, D. C., with my uncle, Peter Pitchlyn. After attending Cumberland University for two years, I entered medical school at Baltimore, Maryland, where I graduated in the spring of 1872.

After graduating from medical school, Dr. Israel W. Folsom (who later moved to Ardmore) and I went to Atoka where we began the practice of medicine up and down the M. K. & T. Railroad. We also operated the drug store at Atoka. The Nichols family was operating the hotel there at that

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time. I spent two years at Atoka and sold out to Dr. Folsom, then moved to Pauls Valley, where I began the practice of medicine.

In 1876, I moved to my present location, three miles west and one mile north of Davis. Here, I established a good medical practice, sometimes riding as far as Healdton to see a patient. I would go on horseback, usually riding down one day and coming back the next.

My mother moved four miles west of the present town of Davis while I was attending school in Baltimore. She settled on the old Moncrief place, which is now owned by a Mr. Smith. My first wife was Lizzie Grant, a daughter of Tom Grant. Tom Grant later married my sister.

The first store around Davis was called the Washita store and was owned and operated by Matt Wolfe. Apparently he wanted to own the whole place and did not want anyone else to own property there, so Sam Davis went down to the present town of Davis and established a home and began operating a store.

Early settlers in this country were the Gardners, Brad Camp, Sam Garvin, Tom Grant, Mitchells, Wantlings, Kimberlins and Joe Myers. The Kimberlins and Wantlings

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raised corn in large acreage and sold it at Fort Sill for \$1.00 a bushel.

Fort Arbuckle was abandoned in 1870, although the United States surveyors were still using the buildings as headquarters for the surveyors when I first visited there.

I operated a large ranch in the Arbuckle vicinity for many years, and gave up the practice of medicine to engage in this enterprise and I still own several hundred acres of land.