

McCURLLEY, J. M.

INTERVIEW

#9405

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INTERVIEW.

Form A-(S-149) #9405

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

474

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) December 13, 1937

1. Name Mr. J. M. McCurley

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 910 North 12th Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 6 Year 1881

5. Place of birth State of Texas

6. Name of Father J. B. McCurley Place of birth Texas

Other information about father Died at the age of 59.

7. Name of Mother Annie Sager Place of birth Virginia

Other information about mother Died at the age of 59.

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.

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Interview with J. M. McCurley
910 North 12th Street
Chickasha, Oklahoma

Investigator - Jasper H. Mead
December 13, 1937

My name is J. M. McCurley. I was born February 6, 1881, in the state of Texas, fifty-seven years ago. I came to the Indian Territory fifty years ago and the first place we landed was at a little place named Elk, thirty miles west of Ardmore. Elk was a very small place with one store, one blacksmith shop and a one room log school and church house; this log house was 16 x 18 feet with a door in one end and a stone fire place in the other end, with two open windows; this store building and the post office were combined.

There were a good many Indians around Elk, Choctaws and Chickasaws but they never did give any trouble. I have seen them lots of times dressed in what they call breach clouts with blankets thrown around them. I am one-fourth Chickasaw myself but the lawyers got my land and the Government failed to

make me any payments.

There was not much farming around Elk. Twenty acres of land ~~were~~ considered a big block and what plowing we did was done with oxen. I was thirteen years old before we ever worked a horse. In the little patch we worked we used what you would call a half a yoke; that means one steer.

When we planted cotton we would tie a big rock behind one steer and drag it along and cover the cottonseed; when we planted corn, one person would drop the corn and another would come along with a weeding hoe and cover it.

The land around Elk was mostly mountainous and timber land so most of it was in big ranches. George Giddon was the biggest ranch owner in that part of the country and he had thousands of heads of cattle.

The main water supply came from the Russell Pretty Creek; there was lots of it and it was good water.

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The kind of officers we had were United States Marshals. If you got into trouble and had to be tried you had to go to Paris, Texas or to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The closest railroad to Elk was the Santa Fe at Ardmore.

There were deer, antelopes, turkeys and prairie chickens; I have seen as many as twenty-five or thirty deer in one bunch. Antelopes were not so plentiful but there were quite a few of them and there were turkeys and prairie chickens by the thousands.

I have lived in and around Chickasha for ten years and am a farmer.

INDEX CARDS

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