

SCOTT, JAMES MADISON.

INTERVIEW

12581

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

SCOTT, JAMES MADISON.

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Field Worker's name Wylie Thornton.This report made on (date) December 31, 1937.

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1. Name James Madison Scott.
2. Post Office Address Sallisaw, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) Highway Street.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October. Day 13 Year 1860.
5. Place of birth Carthage, Missouri. In Jasper County.

6. Name of Father William P. Scott. Place of birth Illinois.  
Other information about father Confederate Soldier.

7. Name of Mother Catherine Cox. Place of birth Illinois.  
Other information about mother Died in Fayetteville,  
Arkansas.

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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 3.

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Wylie Thornton,  
Investigator,  
Dec. 31, 1937.

An Interview With James Madison  
Scott, Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

A Pioneer who remembers the  
Cherokee Nation as early as 1864.

I was born in Jasper County, Missouri, near Carthage on October 13, 1860, on a small farm belonging to my father, William P. Scott.

When the Civil War ended Father came to us at once and drove our ox team back to Arkansas to a point six miles west of Fayetteville, Arkansas, where we settled on a ten acre truck farm, which Father purchased, after a couple of years trucking, he converted his ten acres into a tobacco farm exclusively.

When I was twelve years of age Father began peddling cured tobacco in twisted form, and in the form called hand tobacco. The hand tobacco is cured tobacco in small bunches.

I was about twelve years of age when Father began hauling and peddling this tobacco to the Indians in the Cherokee Nation. We peddled tobacco for beaded goods, wild hog meat, cured venison, coon, opossum, pole-cat, wolf, deer, fox, and squirrel hices, and for various other goods and we got a good deal of meat besides.

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I remember Father and I were paid by a school teacher in Fayetteville to take his wife to a railroad station so that she could visit her parents back East somewhere. We took her in a wagon plumb to Muskogee, that was the nearest railroad station.

There was no railroad in that part of Arkansas.

On these trips into the Cherokee Nation we passed many times near where Sallisaw now stands and there was nothing then to indicate that there ever would be a village there.

The Indians had no roads except very dim traveled wagon roads made by wagon wheels, sometimes they looked more like stock paths than roads. We found the Indians' homes away up in hollows, and up streams and we usually had to drive through the woods with our wagons to actually reach their houses. We had spent half a day a lot of times trying to get the Indians to come up close enough to our wagon to look at our wares and to get them to understand that we wanted hides and beaded goods and venison, and the meat of other animals.

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This eastern Oklahoma was a vast stretch of forest and underbrush, full of wild game - with a few black bears in it.

I never saw any law violations done by the Indians at any time on these trips but that was before whisky was brought to the Indians. There was no town between Fayetteville and Tahlequah.

We would drive first to Tahlequah, then to Fort Gibson, then on to Muskogee.