

SHELTON, JAMES W. INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
INDIAN PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Planting History - ~~West. Co.~~ Oklahoma

SHELTON, M. SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW

6393.

Field Worker's name Lula Austin.

His report made on date June 11, 1937.

1. Name Samuel M. Shelton.

2. Present address Sycamore, Street.

3. Residence address Lawton, Oklahoma.

4. Date of birth October 10 1897.

5. Place of birth Hill County, Texas.

6. Name of father Walter H. Hart

Other information about father

7. Name of mother Elizabeth

Other information about mother

Notes or complete report on this person, dealing with the life and story of his or her life, should be prepared for suggested subjects and other subjects of interest if necessary and convenient. Number of sheets attached 2

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Lula Austin,
field worker,
June 21, 1937.

an interview with Samuel Shelton,
Evergreen Street, Durant, Okla.

I was born in Hill County, Texas, October 16, 1857; -
came to Indian Territory in 1877, and settled near Woodville,
Oklahoma, working as a cowboy for Easton Harney (Chickasaw)
on what was known as the old E ranch. There were several of
us cowboys and we rode all day among the cattle to see that
they didn't roam too far away.

One day while riding with Mr. Harney and one of the
boys, we crossed Washita River which was up, and one of the
boys with us fell into the river. We thought the boy was
drowning. Mr. Harney jumped in after him and was drowned;
the boy swam out.

After I left Mr. Harney's ranch I worked for Governor
Burney and Mr. Trace, who built the first sawmill in the
country, located on the Washita River at Finchtown. For five
winters I drove six yoke of oxen hauling logs to the river
where we tied them together and floated them down the river
to the sawmill. In the summer we would haul the lumber to
Denison. It would take two days to make the trip. Walnut

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lumber sold for \$25.00 a thousand. I broke the first land on the Twelve Mile prairie and planted forty acres in cotton. The land was located two miles from McCoy hill.

While working for John H. Crockett in Marshall County, near Aylesworth, his wife cleaned out the kitchen stove to build a fire to prepare supper and emptied a pan of hot ashes in the yard. I was nearby feeding the mules. Her little girl had followed her into the yard and fell in the hot ashes. I heard her scream. I ran to her, but her little hands were so badly burned that her fingers had to be amputated. There were no doctors- only quacks- nearer than Fort Smith, so her father took her there and they tried to save her fingers, but it was impossible. The little girl grew to womanhood, married and now is employed as a saleslady.