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Journey to Oklahoma
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Story told to Glenn F. Curd,
Field Worker, Indian-Pioneer History
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I was born in Garmi County, Ill., in 1865. Land was high in Illinois and we were just renting, so we decided to come to Oklahoma Territory and make us a home. I was (22) years old when we started out with 1 team, 8 mules, and 65 head of cattle. We stopped 18 miles northwest of Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, 7 miles to Mulhall and 6 miles from Orlando, all towns still in existence. We got here too late to make the run and there was only one place left for rent. I rented it and tried to make a crop but had to go back to Kansas to get feed for cattle and while I was away, a neighbor sold my place for \$30.00. I had just started a dugout for a home until I could do better. After I came back and found my place gone, most of my cattle had Texas fever and died --only had 18 head left. This just like to have stopped our eating all together, for milk and cornbread was what we lived on a lot. So I drove the remaining 18 head back to Kansas and then myself came back to Oklahoma. Went to work for my step-dad, John Wallace, for 50 cents a day. I worked for him 3 or 4 years and only got \$14.00 out of it. I made the run in the Cherokee Strip. But

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some way my notification papers were delayed and I didn't get to start as soon as I should have but as soon as I received them, I got on my horse and rode 40 miles in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours and didn't get any place either, but I stayed all night in Cherokee Strip, then went on back to Orlando. My Step-Dad came in time to make the run. He also had 400 acres in Kansas and liked to have got caught but got by without any trouble and got a $1/4$ section in Cherokee Strip. Never had any experience with Indians. It was a hard country those days so I went to work as a laborer and am still a laborer.