

SOUTHARD, J. M.

INTERVIEW

#8843

474

SOUTHARD, J. M.

INTERVIEW

8843

475

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) October 15, 1937

1. Name Mr. J. M. Southard

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1852

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Thomas Southard Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father deceased

7. Name of Mother Mary Boxley Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother Deceased

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 _____

Interview with Mr. J. M. Southard
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1852 in Texas. I left Missouri in 1880 in a covered wagon with my brother and sister, my father and mother having died a few years before and I being the oldest one, throwing the responsibility on me to make the way.

We left Missouri for Texas, and came through the Choctaw Indian nation and crossed part of the Chickasaw Nation. At that time there were very few roads and no fences. We came into the Indian Territory at the north-east side and crossed the Chickasaw Nation by Pishomingo.

While crossing through the Indian Territory, we camped at Indians' houses. When the Choctaws lived in one-roomed log houses or half-dugouts; they were very friendly; they didn't live like the Comanche Indians did, as I was over in the Comanche Indian country later and they lived in tepees. The Choctaws lived in log houses and half dugouts, but they didn't have any bedsteads or stoves. They slept on the floor on blankets and skins.

The mixed breed lived like the white people; they would have furniture; but the full-bloods that I camped with didn't have any furniture and they cooked what they ate in a pot and all they would have, would be some kind of meat and corn cooked together.

The Choctaws didn't farm much. They could have a small patch of tom fuller corn. While crossing the Choctaw Nation I never saw very many cattle, but I did see lots of wild horses; they were little horses. There wasn't much cotton; just a small patch here and there and small patches of corn; these small fields would be fenced with rail fences.

I camped one night at old Stonewall in the Chickasaw Nation and from there until I crossed Red River all I saw was cotton, large corn fields, and cattle. Most of the cattle were white face, what we called Texas cattle.

I camped at Tishomingo a few days as I had a cousin who had married a Chickasaw Indian named Love and they were supposed to be living near Tishomingo. I finally located him so my brother and I left our sister there with our

SQUITHARD, J. M.

INTERVIEW

8843

3

cousin and we went on into Texas.

We rented a farm near Denison, Texas, and went to farming. We farmed there until the spring of 1896 when we sold out and came to the Indian Territory, and went to work on the Santa Fe railroad, that was building through the Chickasaw Nation.

We went to work helping cut the right-of-way from where Ardmore, Oklahoma, is now. Then there was only a store at Ardmore and a few log houses. At one time these log houses had been headquarters for the "Seven Hundred Ranch", or that was what I was told, by old settlers working on this railroad. We worked a few months on the railroad and we quit and settled on the Washita river south of where Daugherty, Oklahoma, is now, right at the foot of the Arbuckle mountains.

At that time if you found cattle or hogs that had no brand or marks on them all you had to do was to put your mark or brand on them and they were yours. You had to have your brand and mark registered in the capitol of the Chickasaw Nation. There were lots of wild horses in that part

SOUTHARD,

J. M.

INTERVIEW

8843

of the country. We would catch these horses and break them to ride and sell them to the ranch owners around over the country. We were living there when the first train went over the new railroad that we had worked on. Our log house was within about two hundred yards of the railroad; the first train went through there in 1887. That year we sold out what cattle and hogs we owned and my brother went back to Missouri and I drifted back into Texas. I never saw my brother or sister anymore until 1900. At that time we met at our sister's house; she had married and was living near Milburn in the Chickasaw Nation. I now live with my daughter at Anedarko. At the time of this writing, I am visiting my sister at Pauls Valley.