

STAGGS, W. B. — INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) July 13, 193 7

1. Name W. B. Staggs

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Chickasha R. #3.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 14 Year 1890

5. Place of birth State of Arkansas

6. Name of Father James W. Staggs. Place of birth S. Carolina

Other information about father Age 76

7. Name of Mother Nellie Ashmore Place of birth S. Carolina

Other information about mother Age 61.

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 5.

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Jasper H. Mead,
Interviewer.
July 13, 1937.

Interview with W. B. Staggs.
R.#3. Chickasha, Oklahoma
Father-James W. Staggs.
Mother-Nellie Ashmore
Born April 14, 1890

My name is W. B. Staggs. I was born April 14, 1890, in the State of Arkansas. I came to Oklahoma in 1901, and the first place I landed was at a little place called Serritt. It was called Cale a little later on, and then they changed it to Clera. This place is five miles south of Durant on the M. K. & T. Railroad.

Clera was a small railroad town composed of one livery barn, one hotel, one general merchandice store, and one blacksmith shop. There was a plank side walk that ran from one place to another, and the walks were about three feet wide, except when they were in front of a building.

There was little farming around Clera, just small patches, as most of the land was in ranches. When I was fourteen years old I worked on the Colbert Ranch for twenty-two and one half dollars per month and my board and room. The ranch was owned by Jack Morgan. This

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rench had lots of cattle on it, and worlds of grass, hip high. There was lots of wild deer here, and you could look in most any direction and see them jumping up to the top of the grass.

In the fall of the year people would plow around their barns and houses so if the prairies got on fire they would have a chance to save them. One Christmas Eve I was with a bunch of kids who built a little fire, and we got to throwing target shells in it. These shells were blowing up and scattering fire, and we caught thousands of acres on fire. The older folks fought fire for two weeks.

There was a one room log house that was used for a school which ran four months out of the year. Each student who went there had to have his parents pay so much per month on each child.

The water around Durant came from dug wells cased up from bottom to top with native rock, and it was good water.

some

The Choctaw and Cherokee Indians are located around Durant. They never caused any more trouble than anyone

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else. I am one-sixteenth Cherokee. My father was one-eighth Cherokee, but I never drew any land nor received any kind of a payment from the Government.

The first sheriff around that part of the country after Statehood in 1907, was Clipper Hamilton.

There used to be lots of shooting scraps around there; but the worst one I ever heard of or saw the marks of when it was over, was between the Whaleys and the Allen's. There were seven on the Whaley's side and four on the Allen's, and believe me they had it.