

JACKSON, J. F.

INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149) #1010885

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) February 22, 1938 1938

1. Name J. F. Jackson

2. Post Office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 24 Year 1888

5. Place of birth North Carolina

6. Name of Father J. W. Jackson Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Matilda Belton Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about mother _____

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 8 sheets.

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INTERVIEW

#10108

Investigator
Maurice R. Anderson
February 22, 1938

Interview with J. F. Jackson
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

I was born in 1858, in North Carolina, I came from Texas to the Indian Territory in 1887 and leased a farm from John Need, a Choctaw Indian. When I settled on this farm near Connerville, in the Choctaw Nation, that part of the country was very thinly settled. John Need gave me a five year lease on the place and all I made off of it, for clearing the place up and putting it in cultivation. The nearest post office was Connerville.

There was no cotton gin there at that time, the nearest gin was about twenty-five miles at a place called Pontotoc and after getting the cotton ginned there, I would have to haul it to Denison, Texas, to market it. I would usually make two trips a year to Denison to sell my cotton and bring back what provisions I would need; we bought salt and sugar by the barrel. Frank Byrd, owned a grist mill and flour mill then; I would take corn and wheat to his mill; that was the only mill I knew of in the country. He was a brother to William Byrd, who was at one

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time governor of the Chickasaw Nation. I was assistant postmaster at Connerville for three years. I was appointed in 1888.

When I settled in that part of the country there were plenty of deer, turkey and wild hogs. I raised and bought cattle and I believe I owned the first farm dairy in that part of the country. I owned several milk cows and about one hundred chickens and I sold all the milk, eggs and butter I had to spare. I have heard old timers say who lived in that part of the country when I did that they believed I sold enough milk, butter and eggs to feed the United States Army. Well, I know besides doing my farm work I did sell quite a lot of each.

In 1900 when the new town of Ada started to build, I was able to sell all the milk and butter my cows could make. I sold out in 1904 and went back to Texas and at the sale I had twenty-five good milk cows, which sold from \$15.00 to \$20.00 each; today they would be worth \$50.00 each. I moved from Texas to the farm I now live on in 1908, nine miles west of Pauls Valley.