

STIPES, D. L.

INTERVIEW

7873

418

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

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) October 20 1937

1. Name D. L. Stipes

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Route 2

3. Residence address (or location) Southwest of Shulter

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 30 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Kentucky

6. Name of Father J. I. Stipes Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Angeline Place of birth Tennessee

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 5.

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

7873

Kelley, Grace - Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History.
October 20, 1937.

Interview with

Mr. D. L. Stipes.

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Hunting a New Home.

In 1887 my father took mother, my sister and me to look for a new place as we were dissatisfied in Arkansas. I was twenty-one years old at that time. We went first to Joplin, Baxter Springs, Cedar Vale, to the Colorado line and back into No Man's Land. We paid a man five dollars to run off a place for us and mark it off. It was on a bald prairie close to a ravine. The women washed and the high buffalo grass got on fire and burned the whole country off. That night a blizzard came and blew the tents down. One of the wagons started rolling down toward that ravine but my father caught it and we fixed it so it wouldn't blow away again. The women ran to the ravine for protection from the weather. Two days later we loaded up and pulled out across the Texas Panhandle and crossed the Red River above Harold. The river was dry, no water at all, as they said there had been no rains for five years, anyway

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

7873

-2-

for a long time. We went through the Comanche country, without any trouble; they were wild but the Government was taking care of them, through Fort Sill to McAlester, (Old Town was there but not New McAlester), to old Krebs and crossed Cains creek at where Quinton is now. Through where San Bois Town is and to Howe where we crossed into Arkansas again.

Moved to Territory in 1891.

When I came to the Territory to stay I came across the Poteau river close to Poteau. Through Poteau and to San Bois Town, to Enterprise, Whitefield and on to Longtown Creek. The only place I had to pay toll was two miles west of Whitefield. An Indian had put a pole across the trail and wouldn't let us pass until we had paid him a quarter. Whitefield was a small place so we traded at Enterprise. There was a gin at Enterprise and we sold our produce there. Sometimes we went to Quinton but it was thirteen miles away. Mr. McClanahan owned the store where we traded there.

Indian Rancher.

Ben Foreman was an Indian cattleman but also had hogs and horses. The Indian ponies ran in the mountains and were wild-like but he claimed them and branded them.

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

7873

-3-

He was a boss among the Indians but I think he was part Cherokee.

Mail Route.

From Eufaula to Enterprise then on the Whitefield. The mail was brought sometimes on horseback and sometimes in a buggy.

Sawmill on South Canadian.

There was a sawmill three miles north of Brooken on the South Canadian river. There were four or five workers. They made rough cottonwood lumber. I worked there until I got too sick with malaria to work. It was in the bottoms and too close to the water to be healthy.

Old Indian Cemetery.

East of Brooken two miles, on John Sanders place, was a very old cemetery with seven graves that I could count. I don't know if there were more or not.

Selling Produce.

When I lived at Pierce I took my cotton either to Checotah or Eufaula, to the one where I thought I'd get the most for it. There would be seven or eight buyers on the street. They would keep bidding on a load of cotton until the price would be run up high. If there were

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

7873

-4-

only one or two buyers you wouldn't get much for it. One year I only got seventy-five cents a hundred for the last part of my crop. I paid seventy-five cents for a hundred pounds of the poorest flour I ever bought that same time.

Snake Indians.

Abe Grayson was a big, fat, colored man. His hair was about five inches long when braided and he wore it braided all over his head. He had two separate homes and two wives, one colored and one Indian. The colored wife had the family.

During the Snake uprising Doc. Odom was either a Sheriff or Deputy. His son was shot and killed by the Indians. He and some other men were after Chitto Harjo and Abe Grayson and found them hiding in the grass, which was waist high on the prairie, between Brush Hill and Pierce. The white men scattered and set fire to the grass and the Indians came out.

During the Snake trouble a negro and Indian, Snakes, took another smart Indian close to Okmulgee and shot him because he knew too much on them.

Rancho in 1891.

Joe Darrah had been an out-law and quite a few of

STIPES, D. L. - INTERVIEW.

7873

-5-

his bunch were killed so he quit. He had a ranch on Longtown Creek eight miles west of Enterprise. My brother lived on his place and Darrah hired him to build a water-gap for five dollars but never paid it, so he didn't turn honest even when he quit.

Stomp Dance.

I went to a stomp dance here in the Creek Nation and it was a rough affair. They built a fire and then danced around it singing some noise and bending toward it as they danced. The women wore terrapin shells on their ankles and as they danced they bent toward the fire and sounded like they were crying. Will Blanchard was an Indian and he told me that years ago they burned white people in the same way but now as they don't burn anyone they just mock the way the whites used to cry when they were being burned.