

STEWART, J. L.

INTERVIEW

13796

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

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STEWART, J. L. INTERVIEW

13796.

Field Worker's name Johnson H. HamptonThis report made on (date) May 2, 1938 1931. Name Mr. J. L. Stewart, pioneer2. Post Office Address Moyers, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 5 Year 18585. Place of birth North Carolina6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth North Carolina

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____

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Field Worker, Johnson H. Hampton
May 2, 1938.

Interview with Mr. J. L. Stewart,
Moyers, Oklahoma.

I was born February 3, 1858, in North Carolina. We left there and came to Texas and in going there we passed through the Indian Territory. I went on into Texas and lived there for a few years and then decided to come to the Indian Territory and try out the new country which I had passed through. In going through the Territory I looked at the country and liked the looks of it just fine although at the time I was going through there were no farms to be seen anywhere and there were no people in the country that I could see.

I left Texas and came to the Territory and located in

near what is now Moyers.

I came over to this country with my family; no one else came over with us and when we landed in this country we rented some land from a white man of the name of Frank Moyer who was an intermarried white man; he had married an Indian woman.

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I had no furniture except what I had in my wagon and when we landed here I had to buy what I needed after I got settled on this farm. We lived in a box house which was on this farm which is right on the Kiamichi River.

This little village has been a shipping place for lumber, there have been millions of feet of lumber shipped from this place since I have been here. It was here before I came to this country and had been a shipping place for years prior to the time I came here and at one time the Choctaw Asphalt Company used to ship the asphalt from this place. This little village was named for a man of the name of Loyer who had sawmills and had the railroad put in a switch here for him so he could ship his lumber out. At the time I came here there was fine yellow pine timber in the country and on the mountains and there was also whiteoak, walnut and cedar, but they are all gone now; the sawmills have cut them out until there is no timber of any kind now, that is commercial timber.

Our trading point was at Antlers; a small town at that time but it was not far from where I lived so I made

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that point my trading point and it is still my trading point. It has grown to a pretty good sized town now and is full of people now compared to what it was at that time.

I have never been to an Indian camp meeting nor to one of their cries; I have heard of them but I could not understand them anyway so I just kept away. They preached in their own language so a white man could not understand them if they went to one of their meetings. I never saw an Indian ball game nor one of those war dances. They used to dance the square dances years ago but they have quit that and they just don't dance any more; they don't seem to care for any amusements of any kind.

When I first located at this place a good many Choctaws lived in this neighborhood and they would come to my house and stay with me for a day or two. I, of course, would feed them when they came, and my experience with them was good and I thought a whole lot of them. The Choctaws are good people and law-abiding people who attend to their own business and do not bother anybody. They have fights among themselves but they do not bother any one else. I

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have lived among them ever since I located in their country and can truthfully say that I think that they are about the best people that lived anywhere.

Father and Mother both died in North Carolina and are buried at our old home place .