

INDEX CARDS

Intruders--Indian Territory
Prairie fires -
Burial customs--Choctaw
Cemeteries--Choctaw

SQUATTERS

An interview with Sam R. Sullivan, age 67,
white, Okemah, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
5-11-57

It was during the territorial days that many white people came into the Indian Country and tried to settle. Since these whites had no right to take any claims or settle on Indian lands they were known as squatters.

Often times ^{as} many as fifteen families would settle on Indian lands and the government people had to use force to keep the squatters off of the lands.

Many times, these squatters would obtain permission from a tribal chief to settle on a certain portion of the land. These certain portions were never very large, and the cost for a year's living on the land was only five dollars. If the necessary arrangements were satisfactory to the tribal chiefs, the government had no objections then.

These squatters who made the settlements by permission consisted of sometimes fifteen or twenty families. They were never allowed to start a fire anywhere but only at ~~proper fixed and designated places.~~ proper fixed and designated places.

The grass and weeds often grew to such height as to be over the heads of horses, and in dry weather, a fire, accidentally started, would cause great loss of life and property to the Indians or squatters.

The first part of the report
 is a description of the
 place where the
 The second part
 follows

The following
 was

cries
 a mile