

TAYLOR, H. J.

INTERVIEW.

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

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. MeadThis report made on (date) June 14, 19371. Name H. J. Taylor2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 616 N. 12th st.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 11 Year 18735. Place of birth Sherman, Texas6. Name of Father Jennie Taylor Place of birth TennesseeOther information about father age 877. Name of Mother Mary Layse Place of birth TennesseeOther information about mother age 40

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 9

My name is H. J. Taylor, and I was born in Sherman, Texas, sixty four years ago, on the eleventh day of May 1873. I came to Oklahoma when I was twenty one years of age and have lived here ever since. The first place I stopped at was Marlow, which was then larger than Chickasha. In fact there wasn't any Chickasha to speak of. I never will forget when I got there it was about two-thirty in the afternoon, and a shooting scrape had just taken place. I didn't know whether I wanted to stay long, or not. I did, however, for I have been here ever since. There were three men killed, two were outlaws and one was a United States Marshal. I don't recall the Marshal's name but he had two of the prettiest pistols I ever saw. The streets of Marlow were full of black jacks and post oaks, and about one foot deep in white blow sand. People who came there to do their trading at the general merchandise store would tie their teams and saddle horses to these black jacks, in the middle of the street.

There was one pool hall in Marlow owned by a man by the name of Sam Kelley. This was where most of the fights took place because it was the general hangout place when we would come in off the ranch.

The farming around Marlow was very small. Most of the land was in ranches, and most of the work consisted of ranch

work. We generally got twenty-five to thirty-five dollars a month and our board and room and horse feed. Big cattle men in Texas would ship their cattle to Marlow by train, then they would hire a bunch of us cowboys to drive them up into the Cheyenne country where there was plenty of grazing. We would take them up the Chisholm trail which ran a little north of Marlow, and a little south of ^aAgwan, It ran west of Chickasha about twelve miles and then straight on west.

There were lots of deer around Marlow and west to Ft. Sill. Many times when we would bed the cattle down the deer would bed down with them. We always had all the deer meat that we wanted to eat.

Most of the water supply around Marlow was from small wells which would be dug on the banks of some creek where there was a spring. We always had good drinking water.

In 1902, when the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Reservations was opened by drawings at Lawton and El Reno, my three brothers and I all signed up, but we didn't get a thing.

~~When I walked in the office to sign up the man in charge pulled his glasses down on his nose, looked at me, and said, "Young man, are you from the North or South?"~~
When I told him I was from Sherman, Texas, he gave me another

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look that told me that I wouldn't get a thing. I was working on a ranch west of Cement at the time, owned by Swift and Company, getting forty-five dollars a month and my chuck. I didn't really care much about land for all I wanted with it was to sell my right to someone that wanted it worse than I. Believe me, it would come in handy now but then we thought that we would always be allowed to work for a living.