

RATLIFF, MAGGIE BARNETT.

INTERVIEW

8979

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

RATLIFF, MAGGIE BARNETT INTERVIEW 8979

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) October 19 193 7

1. This legend was
secured from (name) Maggie Barnett Ratliff

Address Blanchard, Oklahoma, R. 2

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Choctaw

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

Enrollment of Indians - and allotment of land

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached 3

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Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
October 19, 1937.

An Interview with Maggie Barnett Ratliff,
Blanchard, Oklahoma, R. #2.

Enrollment of Choctaws- Allotment of land.

I come from a family of seventeen children of Choctaw Indians, being born February 1, 1887, in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, near where the town of Durant is now located.

My parents reared their family by a very strict discipline. Each child was taught to work and as each child was born he or she was enrolled with the Indian Government and after being enrolled each child was then eligible to draw its pro rata shares of money from the Government.

Each Indian was paid a certain amount of money at given intervals, usually quarterly. These payments were under what was known as the Choctaw Commission.

Later, there was a commission known as the Daves Commission and under this commission each Indian was registered as to sex and tribe and here the Indians filed for allotments of land. Then the Indians were

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allotted certain tracts of land.

I was allotted a tract of land consisting of two hundred and ten acres in the Chickasaw Nation in what is now McClain County. My allotment was in Sections 19 and 30, township 7 North, Range 4 W.

The customs of the Choctaw Indians were not so very different from what they are today.

The Chickasaw Tribe in the very early days did very little or no work. Schools and churches were about the same as they are today, except the schools that had been established solely for the Indians.

These Indian schools were taught by people hired by the Government; the Indians were never required to buy school books for all books ^{were} furnished them by the Indian Government.

Doctors were thought very little of among the tribe. The Chickasaws did almost all their own doctoring with medicines prepared from herbs, such as bloodweed, snake root, belladonna and fever weed, which is now known as the common broom weed.

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For blood poisoning rice poultices were used and said to be a positive cure.

Salt and soda solution was used for spider or snake bites and whiskey for colds.

My allotment was made in 1909 and since then I have bought surplus Government land until today I own five hundred acres. I now live with my family six miles west of Washington - on the land that was allotted to me by the Government.