

REED, JAMES R.

INTERVIEW

10325

59

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

REED, JAMES A. - INTERVIEW.

10325

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) March 24, 1938

1. Name James A. Reed

2. Post Office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 9 Year: 70

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father John Reed Place of birth Missouri

7. Name of Mother Mary Rowland Place of birth Missouri

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

REED, JAMES R. - INTERVIEW.

10325

Anderson, Maurice R. - Investigator.  
Indian Pioneer History-3-149.  
March 24, 1938.

Interview with James R. Reed:  
Louis Valley, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1870 in Texas, and worked on the J. R. Young ranch in that state prior to 1895, at which time I came to the Indian Territory.

My father and mother had both passed away before I was fifteen years old and this left me to shift for myself. During the five years I worked on the Young ranch I saved enough money to buy a team and wagon and a few plow tools, including a turning plow and Georgia stock. There were some walking cultivators then but very few people owned one.

I settled a few miles south of Louis Valley in the Chickasaw Nation where I rented a small farm. I had to live in my wagon until I cleared up part of the land and built a one-room log house out of the timber I had cleared off of the land.

I had heard so much about the Indian Territory I loaded up what few things I owned and came to Louis Valley and after renting a place I went to Mr. Zack Gardner, a Chickasaw Indian, who owned a gristmill on the river east

REED, JAMES R. - INTERVIEW.

10325

-2-

of Pauls Valley. Mr. Gardner let me have enough corn to run me until I made a crop and Mr. J. J. Grant stood good for my groceries.

That year I cleared up about ten acres and built a log house and made a cotton and corn crop with no one to help me; I was out in a strange country and it was do or die. I planted about ten acres of corn and four or five acres of cotton and that year I made about five hundred bushels of corn and three bales of cotton.

After paying my grocery bill, which wasn't very much, I had so little money left I lived on cornbread but there was plenty of wild game at that time so I always had plenty to eat. Rabbits, squirrels, quail and turkeys were plentiful then.

I paid Mr. Gardner back in corn what I had borrowed from him and that fall I traded him fifty bushels of corn for a milk cow.

The only taxes we had to pay then was a permit to live in the Indian Territory, which cost five dollars (50.00) a year. I only paid this two times and they never came around any more.

110, James R. INTERVIEW.

10325

I farmed in the Indian Territory for five years then  
 sold out and went back to Texas and learned the barber trade.  
 I put in a barber shop at Comancheville in 1901 and worked in  
 that place for ten years. After leaving there I came to  
 Ardmore. Ardmore and Comancheville are in the same county and lived  
 there until I came to Ardmore.