

REID, WILLIAM H.

SECOND INTERVIEW

10576

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

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Field worker's name Robert A. Boatman.

This report made on (date) April 28, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) William H. Reid.

Address Ocle, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator,  
April 28, 1938.

Interview with William H. Reid,  
Cole, Oklahoma.

My father, J. H. Reid, was born in Arkansas, January 15, 1800, and lived in Arkansas until he was twenty-eight years old, at which time, in 1828, he never went there to the Indian Territory with a yoke of oxen and a covered wagon, along with several other families.

Travel was slow but he finally landed and settled in the Chickasha Nation near the town of Berwyn, which is now located on the Washita River in the southern part of the Chickasaw Nation. This town was the trading post which still in existence at the same location it was in 1828.

The first problem that confronted my father was a place to live for only a few houses were here then. This was solved. He erected a primitive log house, covered with clapboards which served the purpose well as a home.

My father's purpose in coming to the territory was for better farming land, though little farming was done when he first came. Father soon noted the fertility of the soil

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and began preparations for planting a crop the following year. There were no conveniences at all and he took with him except a few things that had been brought along in the removal with the family. Father was rather skeptical about the new adventure but to his delight the harvest of the first crop was good, cotton bringing from one to two bales per acre and corn seventy-five bushels per acre.

The next problem was a market for these products which had to be sought in distant cities over a long trail. After much bartering and a cotton gin was secured the same year and Father's cotton was sold at a good price. The following year other settlers began farming the business of farming in that section of the Indian Territory.

Father continued to live here until his death some ten years ago and is buried in the cemetery near the town of old Muskwa.