

REED, GRANT.

INTERVIEW.

12945

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
Indian District Office

INTERVIEW.

12945.

Field Worker's name W.T. Holland.

This report made on (date) February 10, 1938. 1938

1. Name Grant Reed.

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, klahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 714 W. 22 P 1.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 4

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W.T. Holland.
Investigator,
February 10, 1938.

An Interview with Grant Reed.
714 W. 22 P 1. Tulsa, Oklahoma.

My father, Alfred Reed, was a native of Indiana. His first wife was Louise (Burton) Reed, of Indiana. Father married again. This time to a Mrs. Simpson, a widow with six children. He had six, so they had a crowd, a wagon load, on their trip to Missouri. This was just after the Civil War, as I was born in Missouri, February 19, 1869.

I came to the Indian Territory in 1885, when a boy of sixteen, and got a job with a construction company in what is now the Iron Mountain Railway, A.M. McKee being the contractor.

I worked several months at this, then got a job driving a stage coach on the Ozark Trail; this trail was from Fort Smith to Muskogee. John Breedlove, the owner of the stage lines, had two stages and a number of horses. I left Fort Smith at 6:00 P.M. and got to Vian at 4:00 A.M. The other driver made the day run. This was a thirty-five or forty

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mile trip. We carried the mail and made stops at all settlements and post offices. Muldrow was one stop and Camp Creek was another. Joe Bowers was postmaster at Camp Creek.

I was held up only once and then was not robbed. I never knew just what the men meant, as they didn't ask any questions, just looked into the stage. I know one thing though, they scared a family that was riding with me almost to death. A Dutchman and his family "tenderfoots", had read of the wild west, and when confronted with it, almost passed out. I wasn't so brave, but driving at night, was more or less expecting trouble at any time and wasn't so much surprised when held up.

Later about 1887, the railroad took over the mail contract, and the first post office at Sallisaw was in the depot.

The beginning of Sallisaw was known as Childers' Station, about two miles south of the present town of Sallisaw. John Childers and wife, Aunt Nancy Childers, full blood Cherokees, owned and operated Childers' Station, or owned the business house. John Quisenberry and his son-

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in-law, Charley Fry, ran the store at Childers Station, and the post office was in Quisenberry's store, and known as Childers Station. Uncle John and Aunt Nancy were known, loved and respected by everybody. I never knew any people I thought more of, and they were generally loved and respected.

After the railroad now the Iron Mountain, was completed, the town of Sallisaw was started and the first post office was in the railroad station. Perry Wheeler, Sr. and Perry Wheeler, Jr. were the first business men, or merchants in Sallisaw. Young Perry owned and operated the first corn mill, and cotton gin at Sallisaw and the Wheelers opened and operated the first lumber yard at Sallisaw.

After I quit the stage, when it was discontinued, I worked for ~~Bob Harrison near Sallisaw. He was the father of~~ Ben and Luther Harrison, Oklahoma City newspaper men.

Later, I worked for ~~Mr. W. Wheeler, called "Bill", who~~ lived near Sallisaw, raising grain and cotton and who usually kept two hundred or more cows from which he sold quite a few cattle. Wheeler, who was one-half Cherokee, married the daughter of John Carnell of Fort Smith, an early real estate man of that time, and known as Ft. Smith's first millionaire. Bill.

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Wheeler's father helped Sequoyah to perfect the Cherokee Alphabet. John Wheeler, who was much older than Bill, was the editor of the first paper published in Fort Smith. Bill Wheeler lives mostly in Fort Smith, coming to the ranch for a few months, each summer.

Sallisaw's first school was taught by a Mr. Brown in a 16x20 foot frame house. This house was also used as a church.

Charley Fry, Quisenberry's son-in-law, was Sallisaw's first lawyer. He was a Republican in politics and was postmaster at Sallisaw for years. As a lawyer, Fry had the reputation of never losing a case. He was a criminal lawyer, principally, and was the defense attorney. He lost only one case to my knowledge. The Frys were Cherokee Indians, or part Indian. Nert Fry, who was district court clerk for years, was killed at the depot at Sallisaw. He and another man got into trouble over some hogs, and it resulted in Nert being killed.

Bill Wheeler built the first modern home in Sallisaw. He built his own gas plant, and installed a bath and toilet and sewerage. It was a snow place there.