

INDEX CARDS:

Freedmen
Creek Nation
Farming
Lighthorsemen
Trading Post
Camp Meetings
Green Peach War
Allotment

- 2 -
JACKSON, LEMUEL. INTERVIEW. Form A-(S-149)
BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

112
6419.

Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emons

This report made on (date) June 24, 1937.

1. Name Lemuel Jackson. (A freedman)
2. Post Office Address General Delivery, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) One mile north, one-fourth west of
Corris on Highway Corner.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 23 Year 1868.
5. Place of birth Down on the Texas line.

6. Name of Father Ned Jackson Place of birth Unknown.

Other information about father A Slave.

7. Name of Mother Hager Lewis Place of birth Unknown.

Other information about mother A Slave.

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 7.

Jerome M. Emmons,
Interviewer.
6-24-37.

INTERVIEW WITH LEMUEL JACKSON.

Lemuel Jackson, a Freedman and Allottee, lives one mile north and one-fourth mile west of the Morris Highway corner, Okmulgee.

I had lived in the Territory before moving to Clearview, twenty-five miles west of Okmulgee with my parents when I was about ten years of age. There was no particular reason for their moving here--just got tired of the last place like people will.

HOME.

Our first home near here was made of split logs without nails. Clapboards were put on with wedges and wooden hooks. It had split-log floors, except the kitchen which was dirt.

The furniture was crude benches and tables which were home-made.

Wood was the only fuel, and springs and the creek supplied water.

EMPLOYMENT.

My first employment was some farming and the raising of livestock. Ten acres in crops was considered a good farm then. Of course, we didn't have to feed the stock, except occasionally, and corn would last from season to season.

Later, I carried mail on horseback to the Shawnee line. I was employed thus for a year.

I learned blacksmithing under Smith in Okmulgee. My apprenticeship lasted for eight months, then I got half of what I made. I worked at this for a while with Smith and then started in business for myself with a partner. I worked at this trade for fifteen years.

When the Frisco was building through here, our shop shod practically all the horses used between here and Beggs.

FOOD.

When I was a boy, we had practically the same food as the Indians. Beef, pork, squirrels, deer, turkey, fish and the foods made from corn, were the main items in our diet. When we got flour, biscuits were made only on Sunday mornings and special occasions.

INDIAN FRIENDS.

Sebron Miller, Sam Haynes, Samuel Checote, John Freeman and his son of the same name were a few of my friends.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

Before the Civil War, my parents have told me, sometimes when a Master died his personal slave was killed and buried with him and his favorite horse killed and the

-3-

saddle buried with his body. My father said that the Creeks used to stand a corpse up when it got stiff and build a fence around it. Children were buried in a hollow log and in hollow trees. I have seen trees boarded up, when I was small, but never knew the reason for this.

My parents were buried four miles northwest of Weleetka.

There is a burial ground east of Schuller, which is very old.

COUNCIL MEETINGS.

I was in the Lighthorse for a year, but didn't like it much. When a man had to help arrest his friends, etc., he seemed to lose face with them. While a Lighthorseman, I used to attend the Creek Council Meetings, but can't tell anything of interest.

CLOTHING.

The Creeks and Freedmen used to weave their own cloth for clothing. I used to knit my own socks, gloves and pulse warmers (Wristlets). My grandmother had taught me how to knit.

The old Indians never wore a cap or hat. They generally wore their hair short in front and long in the back. Some would wear two long plats. They would wrap up in

-4-

a blanket in the winter.

Most of the clothing was wool, as we didn't know that cotton was for clothing. I wore home-made clothing until I was fourteen or fifteen years old.

I did quite a bit of hunting with dogs. One year I sold enough fur to buy a suit for \$8.00 and some red-top boots for about the same amount. With these I thought I was really dressed up. I wouldn't wear them around home, but would save them for visits or trips to town.

SALOONS.

Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Coffeyville, Kansas, I guess, were the closest towns with saloons, until Old Oklahoma was opened in 1889.

COLORED TOWNS.

The Colored Towns in the Creek Nation were called Arkansas, Canadian and North Fork. They were northwest of Muskogee.

TRADING POSTS.

People traded at Muskogee, Fort Gibson, Eufaula, Fort Smith, as well as Okmulgee. They made the trips to these towns, sometimes with oxen hitched to a wagon.

-5-

They didn't use horses as much as they did sometime later.

WEAPONS.

I have a bow and some arrows which I have had for thirty-five years. I used to kill squirrels and fish with them.

CAMP MEETINGS.

I have attended a few Camp Meetings and Ball games with the Creeks. I have seen eyes put out with the ball sticks. The last game I saw was played at Okemah; it was a rough game.

TRAILS.

I don't know much about the cattle trails, but I remember crossing the Chisholm Trail one time at Shamrock.

GREEN PEACE WAR.

I was just a boy when this war was going on. I was riding around unarmed. Sometimes, I would go with Esparhecher's men on my pony. I hoped to get some guns if they had a battle with Chief Checote's men, as I figured there would be some left around when and if they fought.

FRIENDLY INDIANS.

Some of the Sac-Fox, Comanches, Araphoes and Cheyennes would come to Fort Gibson for supplies. There was a

-6-

commissary there for a while. The Cheyennes would ride in on pintos. These tribes were friendly with the Creeks. However, they usually stayed on their own lands.

LIVESTOCK.

There were lots of ponies in the Creek Nation. My dad owned about twenty-five head. They hardly knew what corn tasted like. They just ran loose on the range. There were horses sometimes three or four years old that had never had a rope on them. We just never needed them. \$20.00 then would buy the best of horses. I sold a pony one time when a boy, receiving \$2.00 which was a good price. I also sold yearlings and steers for \$9.00, which was top price at that time.

RELIQS.

I don't have any relics now. I used to own a muzzle loader, which was borrowed and never returned.

OKMULGEE.

James Turner, Sanger and Sanger and Severs had stores here. Dave Brody was working in Sanger and Sangers. I think he later had a store of his own. Major Cramer clerked for James Turner and was postmaster when I carried mail on horseback.

Jim Parkinson and Tom Wallace ran the first lumber yard

JACKSON, LEMUEL.

INTERVIEW.

6418.

-7-

in Okmulgee. Cramer later ran a store for J. R. Davis, who married Chief Brown's sister, at Arbeka.

ALLOTMENT.

I received every money payment the Creeks received. I received the usual allotment of land, which was located south of Okmulgee.

I know a family names Ashley who bought their adoption into the Creek Tribe. The man's wife and daughters got allotments, but he didn't. Lots of other colored people did this.