

RILEY, ANDREW

INTERVIEW

#6358

213

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

6358

Field Worker's name Bradley BolingerThis report made on (date) June 2 19371. Name Andrew Riley2. Post Office Address Wilburton, Oklahoma, Star Route3. Residence address (or location) eight miles south west of Wilburton4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 25 Year 18565. Place of birth Near Jainsville, Texas6. Name of Father Alfred Riley Place of birth ArkansasOther information about father Died at the age of forty six.7. Name of Mother Reitha Gatling Riley Place of birth enton County

Missouri.
 Other information about mother I do not remember her she died. She
was buried in Texas.

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 _____.

RILEY, as above

Informant (the name Riley age 81,

in the course of his

her name as

the first and

Indian name

born of

that, the name of

ran along at the

tain. When she

in those days it

Government for a few years ago

father was a white man and

the amount of land he needed to

ments were in the hands of his

house. This would entitle the white settler to have possession

RILEY, ANDREW

C. MONTGOMERY

6.3.34

of any land in the Indian country

years, without having any

settler come to the Indian country

just as I had

timber, I

needed to be

could not be done

then in the winter

border of the Indian's land

I was in the

working at a sawmill

I also turned out

four years.

one of the first sawmills

Indian country. He had a sawmill

Potsdam. There were no sawmills

country. I had a sawmill

it ready to run. This mill was

powered by eight horses, driven by a

a circle. These four teams were hooked to four teams fastened

to a large turn table that turned the machinery of the gin.

ANDRE

INTENSIVE

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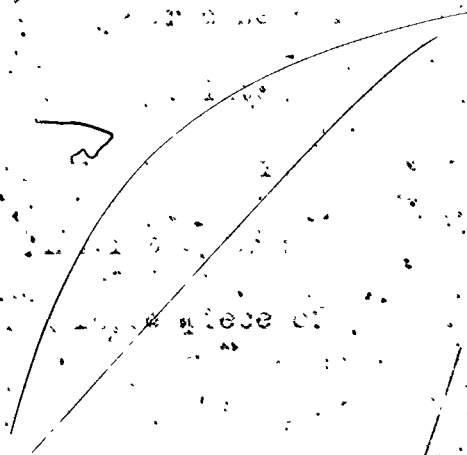
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RILEY, ANDREW

1948-1950

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april

no. 10

1948-1950

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RILEY, ANDREW

1850-1851

1850-1851

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... log cabin ...

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and used it as a road.

When I went

no roads to travel

traveled mostly on horse

line's near

road that

called the Military Road

Texas border. There were several stations in this county in

days. One was where Red Oak is now located

at what is Mountain Station

several miles south of it. It is now a small town

lers of Fort Smith built this road and it was used for

have some way to travel over the mountains.

tribes in order to help protect the mail. There was a stage

coach that ran over this road and they would have to stop

at these stations and feed and water their horses. There

were always four horses hitched to the stage.

Near where Red Oak is now located was one of the first

stations, and an old Indian court house which was started

in this country. This county was named by the Choctaws as

Seizes County in those days.

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along about the time Green McCurtain got to be Governor of the Choctaw Tribe there were several white settlers located in this country and many of the younger whites had married into the Choctaw tribe and become what they called intermarried citizens. At that time there were two factions in the Choctaw tribe. One faction was against the white settlers coming into this country and settling, as they claimed the white man was coming in and taking the Indian's land away from him. They were even against this country being accepted for statehood. Green McCurtain was an educated full-blood Indian. He was educated in the south, and was well liked by the Choctaws and was for getting all their land measured and sectionized so that they could tell what was

theirs and what was not. McCurtain won out in his efforts to get this done. He was a good Indian who wanted his tribe to have everything that belonged to them, and he generally got most of what was right.

The Choctaw Indians in the days of their own government had a great honor system, as there were no prisons anywhere in the nation. When an Indian committed a crime which was as serious as murder, was found guilty, he was permitted to

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go back home after his trial and get his personal affairs
in line. Even though he had been notified by the Indian
court of the day of his execution he would always report.
The Choctaws thought there was no other place where they
could live unless they lived among their own people,
and in their own nation. They would report, even to be
executed, rather than try to leave the country.

The town of Wilburton came into existence along about
the time the Choctaw, Okla. and Gulf Railroad came through
the county, and along about the time coal was found, and
production was started. Wilburton became a good sized town
in almost one year.