

ROBERTS, MAYO

INTERVIEW

#7956

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

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) October 25, 1937

1. Name Mayo Roberts (Choctaw)

2. Post Office Address Durant, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) North 5th Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 22 Year 1908

5. Place of birth Idabel, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father J. J. Roberts Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father White

7. Name of Mother Carrie Davis Roberts Place of birth Indian Territory

Other information about mother Daughter of Zachary T. Davis

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 3.

Interview with Mayo Roberts  
Durant, Oklahoma

Investigator, Lula Austin.  
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149.  
October 25, 1937

My mother is one-eighth Choctaw Indian and I am one-sixteenth. I have heard my mother tell interesting tales of the Civil War days when this country was still virgin territory and was unsettled. She relates interesting bits of history in connection with the customs, tribal laws, and habits of the Choctaw.

On many occasions my mother has watched the Indian ball games, which differed somewhat from the modern baseball and football. Modern sports would in no way compare with the interest and enthusiasm manifested by adversaries in the various Indian games. It is rather amusing to my mother when she witnesses "pep" squads of the modern ball games. "Pep" in the Indian baseball games was brought about by whipping the young braves who were to participate in the game. The thrashing was usually done by the young squaws and sweethearts

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of the players in such a way as to make them mad on the theory that they would make a better play.

My mother's father, Zachry T. Davis, was a peace loving Indian who was named after the President.

During the Civil War, he preferred to remain neutral.

My mother recounts that on one occasion during the war, a detachment of men captured an enemy troop, relieved the enemy of their weapons and threw them into a nearby deep stream. Old Zac watched them from his hiding place. Later, despite the fact that it was in the dead of winter, Zac returned to the spot and diving into the cold water recovered the weapons.

The house of Zac T. Davis was a house by the side of the road to all who came that way, except for drunken Indians. The latch-string was always out to those passing that way and in need of food or shelter. My grandfather was an ardent reader of the Bible.

My mother recounts vividly the funeral "cries" indulged in by the Choctaws when a loved one would pass on to the happy hunting grounds.