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Collections

Claremore

Mary Jane Stockton
Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
May 17, 1937

Interview with William Albert
Robertson as given to Mary Jane Stockton.

Mr. Robertson said:

"I was born near Long Lane, Missouri, August 6, 1878. My father's name was James Robertson (some of the ancestors spelled it "Robinson"). My mother's maiden name was Martha Swinton and she was a native of Canada. Father was born in Tennessee. My father was a minister in the "Church of Christ," but his father was a Baptist minister.

I attended school in the rural sections of Missouri and attained the fifth grade, coming to what is now Rogers county in 1897; settled first on what was later known as the "Dan House farm" about seven miles north east of Claremore; later moved across Dog Creek to a point on what is now the west side of Lake Claremore, which lake was formed by damming up Dog Creek. This lake is about five miles long and furnishes the water supply for the City of Claremore, being also used for boating and fishing.

I have lived in and near Claremore ever since 1896; now own and occupy a small farm on Highway 726, about four miles northeast of Claremore; was married in early life but did not "get along" with the lady, so we

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separated, and have not seen each other for years.

My father and I lived together, "kept latch" for several years before his death, which occurred in 1926.

I have in my possession an old hand-made "Bureau", commode or chest of drawers, that is probably seventy-five years old. It was owned by my parents ever since I can remember and is now in good state of repair. I

also have a quilt that was pieced during the Civil War by "War widows," women whose husbands were in the Confederate Army, and given to my father. I also have an old-time "Heaphook", that is very old, was used by my grandfather, even before he came west from Tennessee, as well as a "Grind stone" that has been in my immediate family as long as I can remember as well as my grandfather's old Bible which is probably more than a hundred years old and is still in good condition. These heirlooms are not for sale, but may, in due time, be presented to the State Historical Society."

Mr. Robertson says that Claremore was a very small town when he came there. Streets had no pavements and became very muddy in wet weather. He remembers seeing wagons "bogged down" near the present center of the city.

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He also, distinctly remembers several killings in

the country when cowboys, cattlemen and ill selves

were common.