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INDEX CARDS

Tribe - Caddo

Schools - Government - Mission - Subscription

Indian Police

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

4378

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) June 11, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Frank Albin

2. Post Office Address Ninnekah

3. Residence address (or location) Route 1

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 27 Year 1884

5. Place of birth Near Verden, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father C. A. McKinney Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Buried in Oklahoma

7. Name of Mother Sarah Davis Place of birth Cherokee Town

Other information about mother One-half degree Caddo.

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 5.

I was born near what is now the little town of Verden, Oklahoma, located on the south side of the Washita River. At that time the land on the south side of the Washita River was claimed and controlled by the Caddo Indians, but later they were moved to the north side of the river.

At that time schools were few and far between. There were two Government schools near Anadarko for the Indian children. One on the south side of the Washita River for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache children, just west of the town of Anadarko (The Indian Agency) and one located on the north side of the Washita River for the Caddo, Wichita, and Delaware children.

These schools were in charge of white men and women. The superintendent was usually a married man, but a number of the teachers were single men and women.

The Government schools were full of children. The accommodations were good, the food was supplied by the Government, and in abundance, such articles of food as meat, flour, beans, potatoes, rice, sugar, coffee, and sometimes dried fruits. The food was prepared by the older girls, under the supervision of a teacher.

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The girls were taught to cook, sew, mend clothing, and do house work.

The boys were taught such work as is done on every farm, also carpenter work and blacksmithing.

The discipline as well as I can recall was extra good, considering the fact that the Indian children did not understand the English language.

The Government schools have been, and are a grand success and they are more popular today than when first established.

The denominational schools were located near the town of Anadarko also, and it is an evident fact that their precept and example was and still is a wonderful power for good, and their influence is still bearing evidence among the Indians today.

The Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches, each supported a Mission School, for the benefit of the Indian children, and many white children took advantage of the opportunities offered by these good schools, without detriment to either.

Since statehood these Protestant schools have diminished and it seems to me a lamentable fact that we need them now more than ever.

The Catholic Church has a school near Anadarko, known as St. Patrick's Mission and is still carrying on.

My first school was a subscription school in Anadarko. I was about five years of age. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Pat Pruner, good friends of my family. Mr. Pruner was a carpenter in the Government service. The school was held in the building known as the "Masonic Hall." My first book was a McGuffey Primer.

I took part in the Christmas program given by our school in the Methodist Church, and while the first verse of my recitation doesn't refer to the Christmas season, it does contain a far reaching lesson. I quote it below:

If wisdoms ways you wisely seek,
Five things observe with care,
To whom you speak, Of whom you speak,
And how and when and where.

I often think of this quotation and glad I learned it early in life.

The Methodist Mission was in charge of J. J. Methvin.

The Baptist Mission was in charge of G. W. Hicks.

S. V. Fait was in charge of the Presbyterian Mission, and a fine institution it was.

Dr. Graves was the Indian physician for a number of years, and then Dr. C. R. Hume served the tribes for many years.

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Jim Deer and Anco, were Indian Police. It was their duty to catch whiskey peddlers, and to keep farmers and cattlemen from intruding.

The Indians had light "Bain" wagons, they used mostly to travel in. They did lots of hunting, as there were many wild hogs, wild turkey, prairie chickens, and a few deer.