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ALDRIDGE, W. B.

INTERVIEW

#8032

425

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) July 26, 1937 1937

1. Name Mr. W. B. Aldridge.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 600 North 2nd Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 27 Year 1876

5. Place of birth Born in Texas.

6. Name of Father John Aldridge Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father: Died at the age of sixty-four

7. Name of Mother Margaret Tucker Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about mother: Died at the age of sixty.

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.

Jasper H. Mead, Interviewer
J. S. Clark, Supervisor
Indian Pioneer History 3-149
July 26, 1937

I was born in Texas sixty-one years ago, September 27, 1876.

I came to Oklahoma in 1903, and the first place I landed was at a little place by the name of Roberta, twelve miles south of Durant.

There were three places of business in Roberta, one grocery store, one dry goods store and one blacksmith shop. These places were all built out of lumber, all three places were in line with one another and there was a small plank side walk that ran from one place to another.

People were very thinly settled around Roberta; there was quite a bit of farming around there.

I have seen the time when I could buy all the choice corn I wanted for twenty cents per bushel. The principal crops were feed stuff and some cotton. There were not any that you would call regular ranches around there for there was too much out side range.

All gardens and crops were fenced to keep loose stock from getting in them, but these were the only fences in the country.

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There was a small wooden school building one mile from where I lived. School was only held three months out of the year. Poor people's children didn't go, because of the tuition charged the parents for each child who attended.

The nearest railroads were at Durant, the M. K. & T. and the Frisco. The biggest business done by the railroads was hauling cattle out of that part of the country to the northern markets.

The water supply around Roberta came from dug wells and springs. The dug wells were walled up from the bottom to top with brick. People would clean a spring out, then rock up around it and have some of the finest water you ever drank.

There were a few Cherokee Indians around Roberta, but they never did give any trouble; they just acted like anyone else except once or twice a year when they would have a picnic. On these occasions they would congregate and dance, hollow, sing and ride horses and have a big time.

We didn't have any sheriff. Government men would come through every once in awhile and pick up

some one, but they always took them either to Paris or Denison, Texas, for trial.

There was a little wild game around Roberta, such as quail, prairie chickens and turkey. I used to like to go hunting because you always killed something, you didn't have to walk all day and then come home empty handed.