

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

AKINS, JENNIE. L.

SECOND INTERVIEW

18907
370

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

377

AKINS, JENNIE L. ORAL INTERVIEW.

12907.

Field Worker's name W.J.B. Bigby.

This report made on (date) February 10, 1938

1. Name Jennie L. Akins

2. Post Office Address Westville, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 26 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Goingsnake District, Cherokee Nation.

6. Name of Father Coom Foreman. Place of birth Georgia

7. Name of Mother Feggy Richardson Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother _____

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.

AKINS, JENNIE L. ORAL INTERVIEW

12907

W. J. B. Bigby,
Investigator,
February 10, 1938.

An Interview with Jennie L. Akins,
Westville, Oklahoma.

I was born in the old Goingsnake District, Cherokee Nation, February 26, 1866. My father was Coon Foreman, an Immigrant Cherokee who came here about 1836. My mother was Peggy Richardson, also an Immigrant Cherokee. There were nine children born in our family, Nelson, Charles, Jennie, Mollie, Tom, Fannie, Willie, Lu and Helen. Helen married Dennis Bushyhead, a prominent Cherokee.

Early Life

Most of my early life was spent on the farm of my father, near the present town of Westville. During the War Father was a blacksmith at Fort Gibson. After the War he operated a blacksmith shop at the stage station near Westville on the old Fayetteville and Fort Gibson road.

School

The first school that I attended was the Prairie Grove School, located southeast of Westville about two miles. This

AKINS, JENNIE L. D INTERVIEW 12907

- 2 -

was an old Cherokee school and the teacher was Jim Bates, a permitted white man who taught twenty terms at this school. I finished the grades there, then was sent to the Female Seminary later.

I taught school in the Cherokee schools in the eighties, my first school being at Green, about four miles west of Westville.

Church

The earliest church that the Cherokee people attended was at the Baptist Mission which was located about four miles north of Westville. This was the nearest church but the Prairie Grove schoolhouse was also used as a church.

Trails

In those days all the roads were called trails, the main trail being what we called the Fayetteville and Fort Gibson Road. This was really a military road, but all people used it as it was the best road in this part of the Cherokee country at that time.

This was a stage route. This was about a half mile northwest of Westville.

AKINS, JENNIE L.

INTERVIEW

12907

- 3 -

Ferries

There was only one ferry on the Illinois River here, that is in Goingsnake District. This ferry was located east of Watts on the Arkansas line but I do not know the name of the operator. There was also another ferry at Boudinot near Tahlequah but that was in the Tahlequah District.

Milling and Trading Point

The earliest milling point was at Mitchell's Mill located on the Illinois River northwest of Watts. Cincinnati was our main trading point.

Post Office

The earliest post offices were established at Baptist Mission and at George Christie's about 1870.