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INDEX CARDS

Johnsonville

Byars

Ranching--Creek Nation

Fords--South Canadian River

Game--Chickasaw Nation

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

Field Worker's name Jimmie Birdwell

This report made on (date) May 13 1937

1. Name WISTER ANDERSON
2. Post Office Address OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.
3. Residence address (or location) 1321 N. W. 16th
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Feb. Day 11 Year 1882
5. Place of birth Jehuville, Okla. (Town Moved
one mile south and is now Byars.)
6. Name of Father Henry Anderson Place of birth Mississippi
Other information about father Father died in 1932
7. Name of Mother Cal. Tauntubia Place of birth _____
Other information about mother _____
Mother born some where on Big Blue River.

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 2.

Wister Anderson, (negro)
1321 N.W. 16th
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Wister Anderson was born at Johnsville, Okla., a town that was later renamed Byars and moved one mile south.

His father had about 200 head of horses and raised, traded, and sold saddle stock, teams or just a bunch of horses. Anderson did not farm anything but corn. And this would be in small fields of about ten acres in the bend of some Creek where the land was rich and he only raised enough for feed and to make corn meal. It was 18 miles to a grist mill and the family would take a good solid tree trunk about four feet high and hollow out the center and then make a small wooden mill. They would put the corn in the hollow of the block of wood, then beat it into meal with the mill.

Wister Anderson, the son, had a sister living three mile south-west of Bearden, Okla., and he would very often ride the hundred miles across the country to the sister's home.

There was a man by the name of McFarland who had a ranch on Deep Fork river near Bearden. He did not own the land but leased grass land from people living around there. Anderson says that in the fall of the year along about October his father would take a wagon and they would gather up bones of cattle that had died during the winter. For a wagon load of these bones he got \$10.00.

There was lots of wild game around close to the home. The son said that when he was a small boy he could stand in the yard and shoot prairie chicken, and wild turkey were so thick that from the house you could hear them flying up in the trees to roost. The elder Anderson clothed his family, bought their shoes and other clothing by selling bones and hunting and trapping. The woods were full of opossum, shunk, mink and a few beaver. Henry Anderson used to pilot travelers across the South Canadian river north of Byars.

He always watched the ford and knew where the deep holes were and where the shallow water was. By keeping a close watch and testing the ford every few days, he was able to take anyone across the river safely.

He also kept a team handy to pull out anybody that got stuck. This ford was known as the Tom Alexander crossing but was nicknamed "Tom Ex. Crossing".