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ABBOTT, J. A.

INTERVIEW

#12203

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W. T. Holland,
Investigator,
November 18, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. J. A. Abbott,
1117 E. Haskell Place, Tulsa, Okla.

Joseph Abbott and his wife Charlotta (Matlock) Abbott have been residents of Oklahoma since 1901. Mr. Abbott's father was a native of Virginia. His mother, Martha (Crane) Abbott, was born in Tennessee. They met and were married in Missouri. Mr. Abbott was born in Cedar County, Missouri, February 22, 1857, and Mrs. Abbott was born in Arkansas, June 10, 1862, and they were married January 10, 1879.

Mr. Abbott has been a farmer all his life, and came here in a covered wagon, camping the first night at Tulsa in the "Indian Fair Grounds", a plot of ground of about forty acres set aside for the Indians by the Government. It extended several blocks north of the Frisco Railroad and west from where Main Street now is, to where Elgin Street runs north. It has a racing course for horse races and there was a camp and meeting place for Creek Indians there.

This tract of land soon covered with houses and now there are no vacant spots in this territory.

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Even thirty-seven years ago, there was not any too much respect for the law, so a man stood mostly on his own responsibility and so it was the day Mr. Abbott arrived. He had left his camp to go over the railroad to a store to purchase some groceries when he was stopped by a burly man who asked, in a gruff way, who he was and where he came from. Mr. Abbott was at a loss for an instant but told this man that he did not consider it any of his business, and reached for his handkerchief in his seat pocket not knowing what to do, but this movement happened to be the right one as the man evidently thought Mr. Abbott was going for his gun. He went away in a hurry. Mr. Abbott did not have a gun and this movement was entirely accidental.

Mr. Abbott rented his first land from Tate Brady, who controlled quite a lot of land in and near Tulsa, as he was married to an Indian woman.