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AVANT, J. L.

INTERVIEW

1421

386

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

AVANT, J. L.

INTERVIEW

#1421

Field Worker's name Maude M. Fink

This report made on (date) April 15 1937

1. Name J. L. Avant

2. Post Office Address Clinton, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1002 Orient

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 7 Year 1863

5. Place of birth Washington County, Georgia

6. Name of Father W. H. Avant Place of birth Washington, Georgia

Other information about father Extensive farmer

7. Name of Mother Nancy (Holt) Avant Place of birth Washington, Georgia

Other information about mother Farmer's wife

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 this form. Number of sheets attached 2



AVANT, J. L.

INTERVIEW

#1421

Maude M. Fink
Field Worker
April 15, 1937.

Interview with J. L. Avant
1002 Orient, Clinton.

There were eighty acres owned jointly by Mr. I. J. Nance, E. E. Blake and me. This originally was Indian land, purchased by Nance, Blake and me incorporators of the city of Clinton. It required a bill to be passed by Congress, allowing the Indian to sell eighty acres of the northwest quarter, for townsite purposes.

The intention of the townsite company before the organization was to name the town Washita but after investigation, they found that Oklahoma had another town that name; therefore, they had to look for another name. There was a judge at that time by the name of Clinton Ervin who took a great interest in the town. They named Clinton after this judge.

Arapaho is one of the towns of those times, and has always been the county seat of Custer County.

Schools at that time were good country schools; they just taught to the eighth grade.

AVANT, J. L.

INTERVIEW

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When I wanted any assistance through Darlington ordering the soldiers, I did not have to call them but one time.

Church organizations were formed after the town was located. The first Sunday School was organized in Clinton in a saloon building; it was an old building moved from Parkersburg to Clinton. My daughter Clara, now Mrs. J. Y. Taylor of El Reno, was the first secretary of the Sunday School. The ladies at that time organized themselves into a body of workers and shortly afterwards organized the ladies missionary society of which my wife was the first president; this was a Methodist church. There were only four churches represented at that time, the Methodist, Baptist, Christian and the Presbyterian and all four were given lots to build their churches by the townsite company.