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5139

4

INDEX CARDS

Intermarried Whites--Cherokee Nation
Tulsa
Finance--Creek Nation
Crims--Cherokee Nation
Marriage--Cherokee
Permits--Cherokee
Collections

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

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) May 7 and May 10 1937

1. Name Ernest W. Archer

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) R. R. 4

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth Tulsa, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father John W. Archer Place of birth Webber's Falls

Other information about father A citizen of the Cherokee Nation but not of Indian blood

7. Name of Mother Florence Moseley Archer Place of birth Fort Gibson

Other information about mother One Quarter Cherokee

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 _____.

May 10, 1937.

6

PRE-STATEHOOD DAYS IN INDIAN TERRITORY
Interview with Ernest Archer,
R.R. 4, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
Mary D. Dorward, Field Worker

Ernest Archer was born in old Tulsey Town (which he pronounced Tool'sey) in 1892. His mother, Florence Mosely Archer, was of one quarter Cherokee blood. She was born at Fort Gibson. His father was an intermarried white citizen.

The father, Jown W. Archer, was born in 1857 at Webbers Falls in the Canadian district of the Cherokee Nation. His mother died while he was quite young, he was reared by relatives, and suffered many hardships during the Civil War. Was twelve years old before he had his first pair of pants and then they were made, by his aunt, from an old coffee sack. He "hit the cow trail" when about fourteen, rode the old Chishelm trail. (Jesse Chishelm, for whom the Trail was named spoke fifteen languages, chiefly Indian dialects, but including English and Spanish.)

The cattle in those days were usually of two grades- Texas longhorns, considered the poorer grade, and coast steers, a cross between the Texas longhorns and the coast or Brahma cattle brought in by the Spanish. (I believe he is in error about the Brahma cattle being brought in by the Spanish. My information is that the Brahma cattle were introduced into

-2-

this country under the Theodore Roosevelt administration by a Texas cattle man named-- Borden, who received a subsidy from the Government for that purpose.

Cattle were wild and excitable and easily stampeded, a stampede often being caused by a loud clap of thunder. Have seen as many as a hundred and fifty head of cattle struck by lightning at one time.

Jeff Archer, brother of John, had the first store in Tulsey Town. Had set it up in 1883 in a tent on what is now Main Street, between the Frisco tracks and First Street while the railroad was "building in." He sold chiefly staples such as cheese, crackers, sardines, and canned goods. The next, another tent store, was set up at what is now the southeast corner of First and Boulder, by John Thomas, who sold only hard cider. It was only after the railroad was already in that H. C. Hall set up his store, although he is usually credited with having the first store in Tulsa. (This statement can be verified by several old Indians still living.)

Almost all mercantile business was done on credit, bills being paid once annually. An Indian, no matter what other faults he may have had, was always a man of his word. If he promised to pay on a certain date, he would be on

5739

8

hand ready to pay on that date. If he had no cash he would bring cattle or horses, and always more than enough to settle the account, giving the merchant the better of the bargain always. John Archer usually took care of the cattle and horses for Jeff until they could be disposed of.

John Archer helped build the Frisco bridge over the Arkansas River. Had a horse which he hired out also, receiving \$3.50 per day for himself and horse, considered good pay for those days.

John Archer, when first married, lived in a two-room frame house set in about a block of land, at the southwest corner of First Street and Boston Avenue in Tulsa. When later he moved to his allotment, he sold the two-room house and the entire block of land surrounding it for \$75.00. His allotment was north of Tulsa at what is now the corner of Pine and Cincinnati. He "broke out" his land with a team of oxen.

John Archer's wife was Florence Mosely Archer, born in 1864 at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma; one quarter Cherokee, daughter of Neoshe Davis Moseley. Neoshe, a Cherokee word meaning running water. Mrs. Archer's ancestors were Old Settler Cherokees who came over the Trail of Tears from Georgia. Her father, Sanford Moseley, once shot two soldiers

5724

-4-

of the United States Army. An Indian friend of Moseley's had gone to Fort Gibson, become intoxicated, and started to shoot up the town. He had harmed no one, but the soldiers, fearing he might shoot some one, shot him off his horse. Moseley, indignant at what seemed to him deliberate murder of his best friend, and knowing the two soldiers who had shot him, rode into town and killed them both. After that he (Moseley) was "on the scout", a fugitive, for about two years.

Ernest Archer has in his possession the marriage certificate issued to his father and mother. It bears the official seal reading "Justice of Canadian District, Cherokee Nation."

He has a receipt granting permission to a white man to work in Indian Territory. It bears the signature of E.E. Starr, Treasurer of Cherokee Nation.

Has the old jack plane used by his father in building the Frisco bridge over the Arkansas River at Tulsa, and an old Colt's twelve-gauge shotgun at least fifty years old which had belonged to his father.