

LOVELESS, PRICE.

INTERVIEW

8211

418

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

419

Field Worker's name Robert H. BoatmanThis report made on (date) August 11, 19371. Name Price Loveless.2. Post Office Address Byars, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Byars4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 5 Year 18625. Place of birth Arkansas, Benton County.6. Name of Father Sam Loveless Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Artie Frasier Place of birth Kentucky

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 4.

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Robert H. Boatman,
August 11, 1937.
Interviewer.

Interview with Price Loveless,
Byars, Oklahoma.
Born February 5, 1862.
Father-Sam Loveless
Mother-Artie Frasier

I was born February 5th, 1862, in Benton County,
Arkansas.

As a boy I grew up on a farm and lived with
my parents until at the age of twenty-one years.

I left Arkansas and came to what was then the In-
dian Territory. I traveled around for some time
and when I settled down it was near old Johnston-
ville in the Chickasaw Nation.

This was October 1st, 1891, and there was only
a post office and one store there at Johnstonville
then.

A mail route came from Atoka by way of old
Stonewall and old Center. The mail was carried in
a hack by team and it would take from two or three
days to make the trip with the mail and so we only

LOVELESS, RICE.

INTERVIEW.

8211.

- 2 -

got mail one to three times per week.

Then a route was established from Pauls Valley by way of Johnstonville on north. The drivers of the mail hacks were permitted to carry passengers at a given rate, generally on an average rate of 5 per mile and this mail hack was the only conveyance in those days except riding on horseback.

If a stranger came into the settlement it did not take him so very long to learn that he had not come from anywhere or that he was not going any place, and if the fellow expected to stay in this country that the less he knew the better for all concerned.

This country was the finest grazing land I think I ever saw and was full of cattle. It seemed as though everyone of the cow men knew their own cattle. Their cattle was then allowed to run anywhere as the country was all only an open range and there was hardly ever any disputes among the cattlemen or to the ownership of the cattle.

LOVELESS, PRICE.

INT. HIST.

8211.

- 3 -

There were quite a few Chickasaw Indians here. About all the white people who were here then were some men who had come to seek their fortunes, and most of them had married some Indian maid in order that they might have a claim to some certain designated tracts of land.

There were no fences to establish any lines and so range was range over which the cattle just roamed at leisure and were never fed a bite in winter as the grass was as tall as a cow was high and cattle stayed fat enough for beef all winter. There was some farming done but it was only on a small scale. If a man had a patch of corn or cotton he always had it fenced tight. In the spring of the year the cattle owners would get together and round up all the cattle and each owner of cattle would have a branding iron and when they got all the cattle rounded into some designated place each man would put his own brand on what were his own cattle and then they were turned loose again on the range.

LOVELESS, PRICE.

INTERVIEW.

-8211.

- 4 -

The branding was almost always done in the months of May and June then in the Fall of the year they would again round the cattle up for a recount.

The town of Johnstonville was then fully established. There were three stores and some thirty or forty homes and then with the development of the country, as an agricultural section, a cotton gin was established and a school building and church were built; and old Johnstonville remained a cow town known throughout the entire Chickasaw Nation until in 1902 ^{when} the greatest of all controversies known throughout this part of the country arose among the people concerning the site of a new town that was to be built some two miles south of Johnstonville.

I then lived at Johnstonville and it was a hard fight between the people though a new town site was laid off as planned and it seemed as though the new town was to be permanently established. As the new town began to develop I moved from Johnstonville to the new town known as Byars and here I have remained.