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

7386

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) August 30 1937

1. Name W.M. Baker

2. Post Office Address ~~221~~ Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 624 South Boston

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1870

5. Place of birth Staunton, Va.

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 2

Mary D. Dorward, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149  
August 30, 1937

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## W. M. BAKER

## A biographic sketch

From a personal interview with the subject  
(624 South Weston, Tulsa, Oklahoma)

W.M. Baker served as disbursing agent for the Indian Agency at Muskogee from 1905 until 1909, under the administration of George Wright, Indian agent. Disbursements consisted of payments for oil leases, timber, sale of lands, royalties and rentals.

Baker came to Indian Territory about 1892, after marrying the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Colbert. Colbert was a member of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians who came to Indian Territory from Mississippi about 1840, at a very early age.

## ALLOTMENTS

Before allotment Colbert had 1,800 acres under fence along the Red River north of Denison, Texas, as well as two large farms near Chickasha. His allotment and those of his children were from the tract along the Red River.

## FERRY

Colbert operated the ferry across the Red River along what is now U.S. highway 75. He built the first toll bridge at about the same point. The first bridge having been washed out he built a second one which was also washed out. He then interested other capital and built a third bridge which is still standing, all three being on the site of the old ferry.

J. F. Colbert died in 1893, at the age of 57. The town of Colbert, first station north of Denison on the M.K.&T., is named for him. When the Katy was opened the officials gave Colbert a pass for him and his wife to ride on the first passenger train to run from St. Louis to Dallas.

A son of Colbert, Holmes F. Colbert, now living at Calera, a few miles north of Durant, is the only surviving signer of the Atoka agreement resulting in the allotment of Indian lands. Holmes Colbert also represented the Chickasaw Nation in Washington, D.C., before statehood.

\*Mr. Baker was cashier in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, not working under Mr. J. George Wright who was head of the old Dawes Commission after the resignation of Mr. Tams Bixby. Ed.