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BALLARD, J. H.

INTERVIEW

#8631

354

*copy of [unclear]*

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) September 22 1937

1. Name J. H. Ballard.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma. Grady County

3. Residence address (or location) 412 N. 6th St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 29 Year 1872

5. Place of birth North Carolina.

6. Name of Father B. H. Ballard Place of birth England

Other information about father Died at the age of 87

7. Name of Mother Thezrosa Lucky Place of birth England

Other information about mother Died at the age of 82.

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           .

BALLARD, J. H.

INTERVIEW.

8631.

Jasper H. Mead,  
Interviewer.  
September 22, 1937.

Interview with J. H. Ballard  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.  
Born February 29, 1872.  
Father-B. H. Ballard  
Mother-Thezresa Lucky

I was born in North Carolina, February 29, 1872.  
I came to Oklahoma with the Rock Island Railroad when  
I was twenty years old. I have lived in the state for  
forty-six years.

The first place I landed when I hit Oklahoma was  
at Minco with a Rock Island Railroad Camp. This was  
August 10, 1891. We moved on further south and pitch-  
ed camp about where the Chickasha<sup>33</sup> Fair Grounds are now.  
I was helping to lay the rails for the main line of  
the Rock Island Railroad, going south to Fort Worth,  
Texas. The Frisco Railroad had already laid their  
track from Oklahoma City to Quanah, Texas, when the  
Rock Island moved their camp to Rush Springs. At this  
time I quit working for the Rock Island. I hung around  
in Chickasha for a few days then went to work on a  
ranch at \$30 a month and board and room.

BALLARD, J. H.

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8631

- 2-

Chickasha at that time had three small brick buildings, mud streets and plank sidewalks. I have seen many wagons stuck on Main Street.

The Water supply at that time came from shallow dug wells, most of which were cased up on the inside with red clay brick.

There were lots of Indians in and around Chickasha at that time and just about as many of one tribe as there were another, but they never gave any trouble that I ever knew of.

There were not any schools here at that time except a small Catholic Church which was just a small frame building. What little studying the children did in those days was at home and by candle light.

After statehood, in 1907, Mart Louthan was elected Sheriff of Grady County and big George Brown was a deputy under him. One time the sheriff did something he should not have done and was arrested by George Brown, the under sheriff. He was fined and the fine was paid with two boxes of cigars.

- 3 -

The United States Marshal at that time went by the name of 'step and a half' because one leg was shorter than the other. Joe Burney was a Deputy United States Marshal under him.

I never did see the Indian eat entrails like some people say they have but I have seen them take a pig from the side of the road that had been dead for several days and cook and eat it. I have also seen young Indian boys catch a rabbit, pull it in two, and one eat one half and the other eat the other half, raw.

Mike Makin, a man you have already heard about, also came here as one of the pay bosses with the Rock Island Railroad Company. We all lived out of a commissary; and if any of the boys wanted to quit Mike would pay them seventy-five cents on the dollar for their checks and then wait until pay day for his money.

Forty-six years in Chickasha is a mighty long time to stay in one place.