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BOZE, JAMES C.

INTERVIEW

13446

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

BOZE, JAMES C.

INTERVIEW.

13446.

Field Worker's name Kenneth C. Black.

This report made on (date) March 25, 1938. 1938

1. Name James C. Boze.

2. Post Office Address Williams, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Williams, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 12 Year 1867.

5. Place of birth Smith County, Tennessee.

6. Name of Father Jesse Boze. Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Boze. Place of birth Tennessee.

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 3.

BOZE, JAMES C.

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Kenneth C. Black,
Investigator,
March 25, 1938.

An Interview With James C. Boze,
Williams, Oklahoma.

I am the oldest of ten children and I was born to Jesse Boze and Sarah Jane Boze in Smith County, Tennessee, on July 12, 1867. My father and mother were born and reared in the same county. At the age of eight I was taught to haul logs to a mill on Bluff Creek owned and operated by my father, Jesse Boze. The logs were hauled by the aid of three yoke of cattle.

I never attended but one school in my life; this was a little one room building, located on Bluff Creek where split logs with pegs driven in the undersides were used for seats. One log was large enough to seat six to eight pupils. My teacher was Miss Cooper. I spent my leisure time on the Cumberland River watching the loading and unloading from the steamboats. All the clothing of the entire family was made from home made and home grown materials. My mother owned a spinning wheel and other apparatus used in weaving cloth and my father made shoes for the entire family. When I was seventeen years old, I had my first store bought suit. At the age of sixteen

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I came with my family to Arkansas; we traveled by boat and by train. The first train I had ever seen or ridden on was on this journey. The experience was a thrilling one and I was scared stiff.

After three months we landed in Arkansas. My father, Jesse Boze, died shortly after arriving leaving to me the responsibility of raising four children and caring for my mother. I became acquainted with a wealthy family in Alma, Arkansas, and found employment with them. I moved my mother there and took up an active part in the community and after several years my mother died.

My family belonged to an established Methodist church called Cedar Point located on the peak of Cedar Mountain. The family group walked four miles to church.

All the Boze family were Democrats none holding offices of importance. I cast my first vote in the presidential election for Grover Cleveland at the age of twenty-one. My father, Jesse Boze, belonged to the "Ku Kluk Klan". I only belonged to one society that being the Farmers Union led by C. M. Smith.

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I married Nora E. Land, December 12, 1889, and moved to Van Buren, Arkansas, I came to Williams, Oklahoma, 1929 and I wouldn't leave if they kicked me out.