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INDEX CARDS

Cherokee Nation
Breighter
School-Tahlequah
Hunting Expedition
Chickasaw Nation
Ranching
Davis
Opening-1901

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

1319

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.This report made on (date) 4-26- 1937

1. Name Jim Brooksher
2. Post Office Address Tabler
3. Residence address (or location) one and one half mile south of town.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 25 Year 1971
5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father Pierce Brooksher Place of birth Tennessee
Other information about father Buried in Oklahoma
7. Name of Mother Anne D. Armand Place of birth Tennessee
Other information about mother Buried in Oklahoma

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 .

BROOKSHER, JIM, INTERVIEW

1319

Interview with Jim Brooksher
Tabler, Oklahoma

My mother and father moved to Oklahoma in a covered wagon when I was six months old. We settled near Tahlequah, in the Cookson Hills.

My father freighted merchandise, for some of the stores at Tahlequah, from Fayetteville and Ft. Smith, Arkansas. It would take him several days to make the trip. He said there was a well traveled road, and he had certain places to stay each night.

I attended my first school at Tahlequah. My teacher's name was Collace. I studied a Blue Back Speller, McGuffey's Reader, and Ray's Arithmetic. Our school house was made of logs, and our desks were home made, and were wide enough for about four children to sit in. This school was what was called a subscription school. The parents paid the teacher so much per month to teach each child.

We were living in the Cherokee Country, and there were a great many Indians there, some went to our school. They did some farming, but hunted and fished mostly. There were fish in all of the streams, and lots of deer and wild turkeys in the woods. One fall my father killed one hundred and five turkeys.

BROOKSHER, JIM,

INTERVIEW

1319

2

When I got old enough to hunt I made a trip to the Kiamichi Mountains in the Choctaw Country. There were wild cats, cougars and a few black bear there then. I have also hunted near Vinita where the finest hay meadows I have ever seen were located.

In 1890 we moved to Davis, and I got a job working on the Graham Cattle Ranch, on Rush Creek. I was paid thirty dollars a month and board. I would start out with the spring round-up wagon, and we would gather our cattle, and put them on our own range. We would also brand the calves in the summer, and that fall gather the beef cattle to send to market. Sometimes I would be out with the wagon all summer.

I was working for Bill Washington, on his ranch near Marietta, when the Cherokee Strip was about to be opened. Several of the boys and I rode up to the Opening. When the guns were fired as a signal to run everybody started. There was a good quarter section of land a quarter of a mile from the line, and there were eleven men riding race horses, who raced each other for the quarter. The man who got there first dismounted to drive his stake, while his horse

3

was still running fast. He turned several somersaults, which knocked him unconscious. The others said they would give him the land if he got well. I never knew whether he lived or not. Another thing that happened in the run was the misfortune of a man falling out of a two wheel cart and breaking his leg but his wife just drove on and left him.

I ran about sixteen miles and found a nice piece of land near Black Bear Creek. I drove my stake and sat down to wait for one of the boys who was driving a wagon, with the groceries in it. I waited two days and nights, and he didn't come. I got several drinks of water from some of the people who passed by me, but I surely was getting hungry, so I just saddled my horse and left. On my way back to hunt my friends who had come to the run with me, the wind started blowing very hard. I felt blue and homesick, and so I decided to go back home. When I finally found my friends, they were also ready to go home, so we went together.

In 1901 when the Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche Country was opened I registered for the drawing at Ft. Sill, but wasn't lucky enough to draw a claim.

BROOKSHIER, JIM

INTERVIEW

1319

4

I was in Sulpaup Springs when the first train came in, nearly everyone in the surrounding country was there and a big barbecue dinner was given, and everyone had a fine time.