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FIELD WORKER MAURICE R. ANDERSON
Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149
May 12, 1937

INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE W. BURRIS
Ada, Oklahoma. Born November
26, 1872, Old Stonewall, Chickasaw
Nation. Indian Territory.

Father's name Colbert A. Burris
Born Mississippi.
Mother's name Laura A. Bradley
Born Missouri.

I was born November 26, 1872, at Old Stonewall,
Indian Territory, Chickasaw Nation.

My father, Colbert A. Burris, a fullblood Chickasaw
Indian, his Indian name was "Ashalatubby," came to the
Indian Territory from Mississippi in 1837; he lived in
the Chickasaw Nation until his death in 1907. My father
was present at a council meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas,
in 1866 when the Treaty of 1866 was signed between the
Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.

My mother was born in Missouri, and she left Missouri
with her father and mother on their way to Texas; they
were crossing the Indian Territory near Boggy Depot, in
1864, when her mother became ill and died. It was there
that my father met and married my mother.

Boggy Depot was a trading post for the Choctaw
and Chickasaw Indian.

My father was a farmer and stock raiser, and he was a Methodist Preacher. He preached in the Chickasaw language.

Soon after my father came to the Indian Territory, the government established Fort Washita, located in what is now Johnson County, 12 miles southeast of Tishomingo. The government established this fort against the hostile Indians from the west part of the Territory. One of the old buildings still stands to-day, and has been made into a home and is used by Charley Colbert. Mr. Colbert claims you can hear ghosts there at night.

There is an old cemetery at Old Stonewall that was started during the Civil War.

My father was Captain of the Chickasaw Militia during the civil war, and in a battle a few miles north of Old Stonewall, he was wounded.

Frank Byrd established a mill about 12 miles south and east of Ada. I have carried corn to this mill when I was a small boy. I remember one time I was on my way to this mill, and I was riding an old work horse and had my sack of corn laid across this old horse's back in front of me. As I was crossing a small creek, the sack of corn fell off. I had to wait several hours until a man came along and helped me get the sack of corn back on the horse.

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In 1899, I formed a partnership in law with Mr. J.F. Bourland, at Tishomingo, Indian Territory, for general legal practices; we built up an extensive practice. In 1908 Mr. Bourland and I dissolved partnerships, and I moved to Stonewall where I engaged in general practice and served as City Attorney until 1922. I now live in Ada, Oklahoma.