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BRYANT, W. C. (DR.) INTERVIEW

13460

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

469

BRYANT, W. C. (DR.) - INTERVIEW:

13460

Field Worker's name Loudolphus D. Maybee

This report made on (date) March 25, 1938

1. Name Dr. W. C. Bryant

2. Post Office Address Choteau, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 28 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Tennessee

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

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 3

BRYANT, W. C. (DR.) - INTERVIEW.

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Maybe, Loudolphus D.- Investigator.  
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.  
March 25, 1938.

Interview with Dr. W. C. Bryant  
Choteau, Oklahoma

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I was born at Gadsden, Tennessee, October 22, 1866, and reared at Milan, Tennessee, where I received a common school education. I came to Choteau, Indian Territory in 1885. I worked at anything I could get to do. I did some carpenter work and also kept books.

On February 19, 1891, I married Audrey Bryant and began to read and study medicine. In 1894 I went to a medical college in St. Louis, Missouri, and came home in 1895, then went to school at Memphis Hospital Medical College and graduated in 1900. I began my practice in Choteau and am still practicing medicine here today.

During my early practice I rode horseback and in buckboard and later in one horse buggy. In 1915 I got a Ford car and have driven one ever since.

When I came to Choteau I crossed the river on the McGracken Ferries, the first ferry across Grand River. There was one at Salina a little later and then the Jack

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Riley and Markham Ferries.

When I came here there were no fences between here and Verdigris or between here and the Kansas line.

The Gibson Station was the trading center. Freight was hauled from there to Tahlequah and all surrounding trading centers, Choteau being the earliest trading center.

The first public schools were Indian schools. I went to the first Xmas tree in 1885 at the first school Choteau had. It was a small one-room school house and they had church there for all denominations.

Choteau was started in 1878 and was named after the French traders, the Choteau brothers, who traded with the Indians and operated out of St. Louis. R. W. Lindsey operated and owned the first store. Later store owners were Jack Riley, Bill Whitaker and Bryant. In 1891 a fire wiped out the town and it never was rebuilt as it was before the fire.

I was elected first County commissioner after statehood and, during the war, I was on the local exemption board.

There were lots of prairie chickens in the early days, and hunters killed and shipped them to different places.

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At that time you could buy the hind quarters of deer for  
seventy-five cents. From about 1889 Choteau began to be a  
cattle country and has been ever since.