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BUSBY, GEORGE W. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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- 8 -

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.This report made on (date) 4-28- 19371. Name Mrs. George W. Busby2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 309 N. 6th st.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 11 Year 18975. Place of birth Oklahoma6. Name of Father Frank Elder Place of birth GeorgiaOther information about father Buried in Oklahoma7. Name of Mother Lulu Cannon Place of birth MississippiOther 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 .

Interview with Mrs. George W. Busby
Chickasha, Oklahoma

I came to Oklahoma in the spring of 1896, with my grandparents. We landed in Kingfisher. There were a good many tents in town and a few dugouts. I remember that there was a cafe in town that had the dining room in a dugout.

There were a good many farmers near Kingfisher and some of them drove oxen to their wagons.

Harry Short Tooth, a full blood Cheyenne Indian who lived near Kingfisher, was one of the Indian Police. He wore a blue suit, had long hair in braids, and rode a big, white horse. His wife, also a Cheyenne, was a school-teacher at Darlington, then the Cheyenne and Arapaho school.

I have been at Darlington several times when the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians drew their rations. The steers would be turned out, and chased on horse back until they were hot, then shot down with rifles, and dressed where they fell.

I worked for some Indians not far from Kingfisher in 1897, and they taught me to tan rawhide and cut it into strings, to string beads on. I learned how to make moccasins. The sole of the moccasin was made of rawhide, and the upper part was made of buckskin.

2

In 1898, I came to Chickasha to work for white people, as I had heard that there were not very many negroes here. I got a job working for Ernest Elderman, who was northern man, who had come to Chickasha after the railroad came through and had put in a grocery store. He and his wife did not have any children and they treated me nearly like I was their own. Mrs. Elderman taught me to keep house and cook, and when I went to little parties she always saw that my clothes and ribbons were just right.

There were several big ranches near Chickasha, and the owner's families usually rode in surreys.

The negroes had a Baptist Church in the southeast part of town. The parson's name was H. F. Fields, and he worked for the railroad company during the week and preached on Sunday.

In 1899, I was married by Brother Fields in the Baptist Church in Chickasha.

In 1901, when the Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche Country was opened for settlement, my husband went to El Reno and registered for the drawing but did not happen to draw a claim.

In 1898, when I first came to Chickasha there was not any negro school, but later, in a year or so they had school for the negroes in a frame building. In 1901 or 1902 a cyclone passed through Chickasha and tore it down.