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

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BYFORD, J.W.

INTERVIEW.

9402

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mand.

This report made on (date) December 9, 1937

1. Name J.W. Byford.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Verden R #2

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father J.P. Byford Place of birth Alabama

7. Name of Mother Luisa Edwards Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother Died at age of forty-two

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 2



BYFORD, J.W.

INTERVIEW.

9402.

Jasper H. Mead,
Investigator,
December 9, 1937.

An Interview with J.W. Byford.
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born in Texas, April 6, 1870, sixty-seven years ago but came to the Indian Territory when I was four years old and have lived here ever since.

The first place we landed when we came to the Territory was three miles east of Stonewall on the Frank Bird and Jeff Perry Ranch. These men were both part Indian and my father worked for them several years. He was kind of a foreman for them and received \$45.00 per month; just a common hand got \$25.00 per month with board and room.

Stonewall, when we landed there, was just a very small place with two small stores and four or five small houses scattered around. There was one doctor there.

The country around Stonewall was what you would call prairie land with a few small creeks running through it.

There were many cattle around Stonewall and lots of wild horses or what were called Indian ponies.

BYFORD, J. W.

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The main water supply came from dug wells and springs. These wells were very shallow, but supplied good water.

There was very little farming around Stonewall in 1870 and what there was, was called one horse farming. The farms contained five to twenty acres, which were considered big fields.

The Chickasaw Indians were located around Stonewall and when the United States Government would pay the Indians off the Indians would come sometimes three and four weeks ahead of time, dressed in their native dress and pitch camp and stay until they got their money.

I have also seen a buck Indian, sitting down on some kind of a skin, jump up and outrun a horse; I also saw an Indian jump clear over a horse one time.

There were lots of deer, turkey and prairie Chickens around Stonewall, and I have seen deer in herds grazing in the fields like cattle; wild turkeys then were thicker than the tame turkeys are now; and prairie chickens were everywhere.

The kinds of laws we had then were United States Marshals who were paid by the Government and were after real desperadoes.

I have always been a farmer, and have lived in and around Chickasha for twenty-five years.