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BUTLER, ROBERT. SECOND INTERVIEW

#12162

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INTERVIEW.

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Carl R. Sherwood,
Investigator,
November 18, 1937.

Interview with Robert Butler
1024 Wood Street
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Among the papers of Robert Butler's father was found some clippings from the Fort Smith Elevator, an early day newspaper published at Fort Smith, Arkansas. The biography given below was one of these clippings.

Argyle Juesenberry was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, about 1840, and spent all of his life on the Southwestern frontier, on the border between the White man's and the Red man's country.

His business relations and a marriage with a member of the Cherokee tribe have made him an adopted citizen of the Indian Territory, and for more than a third of a century he has been a substantial figure among his people. He was in school until he was sixteen, a student of Cane Hill College, Arkansas.

The outbreak of the Civil War found him a clerk in a store at Fort Smith and he joined Colonel Churchill's regiment of mounted rifles in General

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Reynolds' brigade, Walthall's division and with Stuart as captain. Colonel Churchill was later Governor of Arkansas.

After fighting in the battle of Pea Ridge, Mr. Quessenberry was transferred to the Eastern Confederate Armies, his first serious engagement being at Richmond, Kentucky, after which he was at Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and Jackson, Mississippi, in the Atlanta Campaign in the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, closing his field service in the hard battle of Franklin, Tennessee. He was on a furlough when Lee's surrender came and was in Texas at the conclusion of the War.

Contrary to the average experience, his four years' service left him in greater physical vigor than when he first took up arms. His weight of ninety two pounds in 1861 had increased to one hundred and forty-five pounds and the training of war seemed to have strengthened him.

At the close of the War a venture of cotton raising near Fort Smith proved unprofitable, so with

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two wagon-loads of merchandise, Mr. Quesenberry moved to the Cherokee Nation and on the present site of Sallisaw set up his mercantile store in an old oak building. His first home was a log house nearby. His equipment was primitive, but in keeping with the hard times and his stock of goods was sufficient for the needs of the populace.

In 1886 he sold the store and engaged in farming and stock raising, his extensive range being grazed over by many cattle bearing his brand.

He was the first man in this part of the Territory to engage in raising small fruits, but after two years of fair success he gave this up for corn and cotton crops which were more profitable to him.

When the national lands were allotted, Mr. Quesenberry and his family made their choice of lands near the village of Sallisaw and his and his wife's homesteads lay on the east and north of the town and had the high values of suburban real estate.

The family residence, within sight of the business district of Sallisaw, was situated on a slope

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among native forest trees and surroundings of beauty.

The Quesenberry addition to Sallisaw was placed on the real estate market, sold and brought the Quesenberry family a nice sum of money.

A few years after the incorporation of Sallisaw, Argyle Quesenberry was chosen mayor and served for many years.