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BARNES, THOMAS J.

INTERVIEW

8563

330

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

Field Worker's name Jennie Selfridge

This report made on (date) September 14, 1937

1. Name Thomas J. Barnes

2. Post Office Address Idabel, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 16 Year 1874

5. Place of birth DeQueen, Arkansas.

6. Name of Father Thomas J. Barnes Place of birth DeQueen, Arkansas

Other information about father His father came to Indian Territory with the Choctaws.

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 2.

Jennie Selfridge
Interviewer
September 14, 1937

Interview with Thomas J. Barnes
Idabel, Oklahoma.

Judge Thomas J. Barnes came to the Idabel settlement from DeQueen, Arkansas in 1902 and has made a special study of the early post offices of that section, especially of the Miller courthouse and by the process of elimination he has come to the conclusion that the location of the Miller courthouse was either at Kullituklo court ground south of Idabel or at the present town of Ben Lomond, Arkansas.

Kullituklo is located in Section 24, Township 8 south, Range 24 east, belongs to the Methodist church and is an old Choctaw Indian court ground. There is also an Indian burial ground here although just when it was established no one seems to know. All of the graves are covered over with little houses, some are of logs and others of frame structure, and the whole cemetery seems to put on the appearance of a small city. All of the houses are well kept and most of the frame ones are painted white with glass windows in each end. According to Dr. C. A. Denison the first store building at Kullituklo stood east of the store in the present church yard. Dr. Denison

established a dry goods business at Kullituklo in 1889.

Worth Millwee, who lived at Horatio, Arkansas, several years ago and is now over ninety years of age if he is still alive claimed that he carried the mail when he was twelve years old. He said that he carried the mail from the Miller post office near the present town of Ben Lomond, Arkansas, to Eagletown and to other points in the Indian Territory.

Quintos Herndon who now lives west of Idabel has talked to Mr. Millwee on several occasions and he always insisted that the Miller County Courthouse and post office were located at Ben Lomond, Arkansas. According to Judge Barnes, Ben Lomond is a very old settlement and some old relics have been unearthed to show that this section was visited by the Spanish explorers. Mrs. J. M. White, an old settler of Idabel, says Kullituklo was an old trading post as far back as she can remember and she is of the opinion that it is the oldest settlement in McCurtain County.