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BAYS, M. J.

INTERVIEW

9188

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

BAYS, M. J.

INTERVIEW.

9188

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) November 12 1937

1. Name M. J. Bays

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 816 El Reno Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 19 Year 1882

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Joseph Bay Place of birth Missouri

7. Name of Mother Mary Hicks Place of birth Missouri

Other information about ^{parents.} mother Father died at the age of

84 and mother at the age of 82.

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 _____.

BAYS, M. J.

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Jasper H. Mead
Investigator
November 12, 1937

Interview with Mr. M. J. Bays
816 El Renoth Avenue
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born in the state of Texas November 19, 1882, fifty -five years ago. I came to Indian Territory when I was thirteen years old. The first place we landed was at Daugherty. Daugherty is located in the Arbuckle Mountains and at one time was one of the roughest places in the Territory. It then was a thriving asphalt mining town, having about four stores and a saloon and bar-room. These buildings were made out of native stone and the stone was white and yellow streaked and in a slab form.

Daugherty had plank side walks which were about three feet wide. We also had a plank school house which was also used for a church house.

The main line of the Santa Fe Railroad passed through Daugherty going south into Texas.

There was a large rock crusher located in the mountains, put there by the Santa Fe Railroad Company and here is where they got their crushed rock to ballast

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the railroad bed with. There were a few deer and lots of turkey and prairie chickens around Daugherty.

There was no farming but lots of ranch land covered with tall grass and cattle. John Stephens and Joe Johnson were two big ranchers who had lots of land and cattle. The ranch work around there paid \$25.00 per month and board.

There were a few Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians sprinkled around through the mountains.

The main water supply came from dug wells, the Washita River, and Rock Creek.

The kind of officers we had in those days were United States Marshals, and they were looking for real desperadoes and didn't take them unless they had the drop on them. Belle Starr has stayed several times with my wife's cousin, Joe Copes. She would stay with them when she was moving from one place to another.

I have lived in and around Chickasha for thirty years and followed farming for a living, I am now in the butcher business.