

MARTIN, JOHN R.

INTERVIEW

4881

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

485 A

Field Worker's name Jasper H. MeadThis report made on (date) July 20 19371. Name John R. Martin2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 1128 North 11th Street4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 20 Year 18705. Place of birth State of Texas6. Name of Father John W. Martin Place of birth TexasOther information about father Age 85 years7. Name of Mother Martha Wilson Place of birth Texas

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.

Jasper Mead, Interviewer
Indian-Pioneer History

My name is John R. Martin. I was born March 20, 1870, in the state of Texas sixty-seven years ago. I came to Oklahoma when I was twentyone years old.

The first place my folks and I landed was in what is now called Greer County near a little town called Dill.

This place is a short distance from Hobart and Lonewolf. I homesteaded the farm adjoining my father's. There were 640 acres in all.

A large gate opening into the homestead with the sign Klondike Farm over the top of it, is still standing.

When my brothers and sisters, father and I left Texas and came to Oklahoma, we came around by Lawton over one branch of the old Chisholm Trail. The governor had soldiers stationed there who worked all over the Territory helping to keep the Indians reconciled and to quell any disorder which might arise.

We took a trail directly northwest from what was called the block house on top of the mountain where the soldiers were stationed and when we quit roaming around we finally stopped where Greer County is now.

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The nearest railroad to Dill was the Rock Island, which runs west out of Chickasha as far as Quanah, Texas.

Father and I finally got a well dug, which turned out to be good water. Most of the wells in that country now are dug wells.

Father and I were very busy breaking our land the first two or three years. Very little crops were raised. We used four head of oxen to each gang plow, for the soil was extra hard.

We could step out and kill a deer, turkey, or prairie chicken anytime we wanted to, but we didn't shoot quail. We trapped them.

There was no school building until we had been there about five years. Several large ranches which had the finest grass in the country were close to our homestead. Ranchers would drive their cattle through there and let them stay so many days before they took them on to Dodge City, Kansas, for the market. The place where my father and I homesteaded is now one of the best farms in that county, and hardly ever fails to produce a crop.

If you are ever in Greer County close to Dill, you can recognize our place by the large gate and the sign at the top, Klendike Farm.