

INDEX CARDS

Immigration--Choctaw Nation  
Farming--Choctaw Nation  
Ball Games--Choctaw  
Schools--Choctaw Nation

Johnson H. Hampton,  
Field Worker,  
May 3, 1937.

424

Interview with W. H. Marshall,  
Antlers, Oklahoma  
Born May 17, 1901.

I was born near what is now Coal County, which was a part of Atoka County before statehood, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1901.

My father's name was William H. Marshall and he was born in the Indian Territory, in the Choctaw Nation. My mother's name was Annie Marshall and she was born near what is now Coalgate in Coal County. They both died there after I was a man grown up and married.

My Grand Father came from Georgia to this country and located near Coalgate, in what is now Coal County, where he lived until his death. He was in the Civil War, and he said they had a very hard time during the war as a soldier. He joined the southern army and served through the war. He got shot several times while in conflict. It was after the war that he moved to Coal County, that <sup>was a</sup> <sup>the now</sup> part of Atoka County; and after he came to this country he began to farm and made corn, and other feed for the few cattle and hogs he bought. At that time the cattle were very cheap, he could buy a cow and calf for seven and eight dollars, and could sell them at that price. They had no market

for stock at that time. My father raised cattle and hogs and ponies but they were not worth anything so he did not take care of them very much, but on the prairies there was lots of grass that stayed green all the year long so we did not have to feed any of our stock-hogs got fat on the acorns in the woods.

I used to see the Indian women make bread or meal in these mortars where they beat the corn and turn it into meal. My mother was a white woman so she did not know anything about making meal out of corn the way the Indian women made it.

I saw only one Indian ball game where they played with sticks. They pulled off a big fight before the game started, and had fights all during the game. There were no one killed but some of them were awful bloody after the game, I just wouldn't play that game at all for it was enough for me to see the fights they pulled off during the game.

My father used to sit and tell all about what happened before I was born but I don't remember much of it. He had lived here all his life and saw lots of things that happened but I can't tell what he did say.

The woods was full of wild game and of things to eat in the woods. All you had to do was to get your gun and stay out a few yards from the house, you could get what you wanted to eat without any trouble. I went to school at Round Hill 3 terms, at Coal Spring 3 terms, and at Prairie Grove 3 terms. They were neighborhood schools but were taught by white people, I can speak English and write pretty well but I sure don't understand Choctaw, although I am one of them.

I am a blacksmith, which trade I have followed for my livelihood for some years. I used to have lots of cattle but I sold them out and now I don't have any at all.

I have gone to the Indian camp meeting where they would feed all that came to the meeting, and I saw one Indian cry as it was called by the white people, They would camp and feed the people for three days and then they would go home until the next meeting.

I am half Indian and have lived among them all of my life, a Choctaw Indian, my Roll number is 15756.