

MAIZE, JESSE

INTERVIEW

8444

172

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

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.

This report made on (date) August 17 1937

LONE WOLF KIOWA COUNTY OKLAHOMA.

1. Name Jesse Maize.

2. Post Office Address Mr. Jesse Maize Lone Wolf Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 2 - Blocks N, 1 Block ^{E-of} Post office E

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 31 Year 1939

5. Place of birth Stephens County Texas

6. Name of Father R. J. Maize Place of birth Iowa

Other information about father Union Soldier Civil War.

7. Name of Mother Cordelia West Maize Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about mother Nothing given.

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 3.

MAIZE, JESSE. INTERVIEW.

8444

Ethel B. Tackitt,
Interviewer
Indian Pioneer History

Interview with Jesse Maize.
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma
Born January 31, 1889
Father-R. J. Maize
Mother-Cordelia West Maize

I was born in Stephens County, Texas, January 31st 1889, and came with my parents to the Indian Territory in 1894 at the age of five years.

We settled near a little village called McGee, twenty miles north west of the present town of Ada, not far from the North Canadian River. There were few white people in the country; the settlers were most all Chickasaw Indians and negroes.

My father brought a good many heads of stock with him. He brought cattle, and horses and he soon got a lot of hogs.

He leased land from a Chickasaw Indian named Stokes Asberry and later leased some more land from Tom Ritter, a Chickasaw Indian, Ritter lived at Durant.

We cleared a lot of land, for the timber was fine. There were big oak, walnut and hickory trees. We built

MAIZE, JESSE. INTERVIEW.

8444

- 2 -

a good four room house of these logs and put in a good sized farm.

Later, when our lease was out Tom Ritter took charge of the farm and moved on it.

It was the custom among the better educated Indians and the Squaw-men, to lease land to some white man for a number of years. They would not bother him as he cleared and built houses, corrals and farmed the land.

Then, when the lease expired, the Indian would take it over. This transaction ^{was} perfectly agreeable to all parties concerned if the contract had been honestly drawn. but sometimes there was dishonesty on one or both sides and then there would be lots of trouble for all.

We moved near a place called Center and between there and the North Canadian River was a little village which contained a store, a blacksmith shop, and a saloon. This was called the Corner Saloon and ran wide open. All these business houses were operated by white men.

There was a United States Deputy Marshal in the country whom we knew quite well, by the name of Bob Nester.

MAIZE, JESSE. INTERVIEW.

8444

- 3 -

He was a very small man but was not afraid of anything or anybody. Some Indians and Negroes committed a crime of some kind and Bob Nester was sent to bring them in. He followed them and they enticed him in to a log hut between this village and the Canadian River, where they thought he could get no help and when he got in this hut his captors all went out and barred up the openings and then set fire to the hut and left thinking they would burn Bob Nester to death with the hut, but he was too smart for them: he got as far away from the burning place as possible and covered his face and body with things in the hut and waited until he thought the fire had burned a hole big enough for him to force his way out through it.

He then took a piece of furniture, a bench, I think it was and rammed the burned weak spot until he made an opening and could get out.

He made his way to a place where he could be helped and for a time it was thought that he would never regain his voice, but he did. He got well and in a few months

MAIZE, JESSE. INTERVIEW.

8444

- 4. -

was back at his work again.

I lived near Seminole in Seminole County when the oil boom came. I worked in the oil fields and had I known what the oil industry would amount to, I could have been a very rich man instead of a very poor man to day.

It happened this way, I knew a man by the name of Grisco who owned a lot of land and wanted to sell me twelve lots for \$60.00, but I was working and told him I did not want to buy, I did not think the twelve lots in Seminole would pay me anything.

After the Seminole oil field came in, I went to see what those twelve lots would bring when they were sold.

The first lot sold for \$1900.00 and the second lot sold for \$1700.00.

I did not stay to see any more sold. I was sick with thinking of the time I could have bought the twelve lots for \$60.00.

When the Kiowa Country opened in 1901, I came here

MAIZE, JESSE. INTERVIEW.

8444

- 5 -

and I have lived in the Western part of Oklahoma most of the years since 1900.