

GARRETT, ANDREW JACKSON

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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GARRETT, ANDREW JACKSON. INTERVIEW. #8118.

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) July 29, 1937

1. Name Andrew Jackson Garrett,

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel; Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 25 Year 1865.

5. Place of birth Tennessee.

6. Name of Father Isaac Garrett Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Harriett Moody Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Housewife.

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 Five.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,
Investigator.
July 29, 1937.

Interview with Andrew Jackson Garrett,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Tennessee April 22, 1865. I left my home in Tennessee when I was twenty-one years of age. I first went to Bowie, Texas. I traveled on the boat and on the train. I arrived in Bowie in about four days but I only stayed there two months.

In 1886 fifty-one years ago I came to the Indian Territory. We drove through in a covered wagon. There were several men making up the party and we were about seven days on the road. We camped on the way, fished in the creeks and rivers and took time to hunt.

We saw some wild horses on the way but could not get very near them. Some of the men wanted to stop and try to get some of these wild horses but we decided that it would be a pretty big job.

We camped at Sulphur Springs but there was nothing here except the springs although it made an ideal camping ground.

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This country was very wild and rough at that time; it had not been opened for settlement yet.

I located near the place where Chickasha now stands; it was in the Chickasaw Nation. There were no settlements around here. There were just a few Indians and negroes drifting through.

There was no farming done at this time and you could see longhorn cattle grazing around over the country.

A man could hold all the land for grazing that he could plow around. Water at that time was one of the chief problems for the cattleman. There were several good watering places around the country and there were many disputes over these watering places.

I have driven many a herd of cattle up the Chisholm Trail which came up from Vernon, Texas, in through Chickasha and on to Caldwell, Kansas.

There was a trading post where the Chisholm Trail crossed the Canadian River which was called Silver City.

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It was only a small store which kept a few groceries. The name of Silver City has been changed to Tuttle now I think.

Lots of men went up the Chisholm Trail who never returned.

Mensford Johnston, one-half Greek Indian, was at that time the biggest cattleman in the Indian Territory. He had cattle grazing all over the country.

One of my first jobs as a cowboy was riding up and down the line fence. Each boy had just so far to go and he would meet another man and each would turn back. This was a job that we all disliked.

Round-up time was always an exciting and enjoyable time for the cowboys. We always had two round ups during the year one in the fall and one in the spring. These round-ups lasted for several weeks.

The boss would send the chuck wagon on ahead with plenty of grub. We always had fun with the cook. He

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was a good cook at home but out on the round up we did not have much to eat, just sour dough biscuits, bacon, beans and black coffee.

The horse wrangler would take the extra horses to be used on the round up. It was his duty to keep fresh horses for the cowboys.

All the cattlemen would group together at the round up. Each man would send out his cowboys to round up his cattle. We would ride until noon then come in and get our dinner and fresh horses and be gone again. The cattle would drift for miles.

The cattlemen had lots of quarrels and disputes over their cattle. There was much cattle stealing in the early days and many times brands would be changed. If a man was caught stealing cattle they took him out and hanged him to the nearest tree; they did not take time for a trial.

Cattle rustling in the early times was about the worst thing that a man could do.

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After our day's work was over we would sit around the campfire, sing songs and tell tales; some of the cowboys would tell about their past lives.

Several boys would be put out to guard the cattle at night. They were called night herders and they would sing the cattle to sleep as their voices were soft and low.

The cattlemen would take their cattle up the Chisholm Trail to Caldwell, Kansas, to ship them.

Some of the brands that I can recall are: the Half-Moon, Bow and Arrow, Bar U, Lily, C. B and the 7HD brands.

