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Interview with S. L. Jones  
C Tree School District

I came to Indian Territory from Conway County Arkansas, where I was born on July 29, 1852. My parents, William and Sallie Jones, never came to the Territory but were buried in Newton County, Arkansas. I was thirty-four years of age when I came to the Territory, bringing my wife and four children. We brought nothing with us but our team and wagon. There was one other family by the name of Mansferd Black who came with us. Mr. Black and I bought and sold wood on our way. We sold it for two dollars and sometimes two and a half a load. Our permit to cut it cost twenty-five cents. After we reached the Territory it cost nothing just so we kept a half mile from the adjoining range. However we did pay a permit of five dollars to live in the Territory. Some did not pay it and stayed anyway, but I always paid mine.

We located two miles south of Kiowa where the road to Coalgate turns, and made two little crops. People didn't plant anything but little Tom Fuller patches but what they did plant could always be depended on to be good. We only grew what we wanted to eat and could go out and kill lots of wild game and live very comfortably.

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Our first house was a one-room plank house but most of the little houses were Indian log huts back from the road.

We killed lots of wild hogs and sold them for two and a half and three cents a pound. One time I killed as many as twenty, and took them to Hartshorne and sold them.

In summer we always had our camp meetings at Godfrey and Picket Spring which is located a few miles east of Pittsburg. We would camp there for two weeks. Some had small cabins and others tents. There were mostly Methodists in our location. We always had lots to eat with someone going out and killing a beef to be scattered about the camp.

We had what you might call a shed where we had our preaching. It had side boards on it that we would lift up in the summer time and in the winter we could let it down and be very comfortable. I led the singing for eighteen years.

There was a toll bridge located at Perryville Creek, where the Gulf Pipe line is located on U. S. Highway 69.

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I had the timber contract for several years for the mines at number one and two at Savanna. As it cost nothing to get the timber in the Territory, it was a clear profit.

I am in possession of a violin dated 1617. I have had it only twenty years so would be unable to give you the history of it.