

MARS, JAMES J. INTERVIEW BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION 6772
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

367

Field Worker's name Dawas Fife

This report made on (date) July 12, 1937 1937

1. Name James J. Mars

2. Post Office Address Sapulpa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 316 S. Water Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Aged 72 Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth Campbell County, Tennessee

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____.

MARS, JAMES J. INTERVIEW.

6772

Field Worker, Dawes Fife,
July 12, 1937.

Interview with James J. Mars,
316 S. Water Street,
Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Mr. James J. Mars was born in Campbell County, Tennessee, August 18, 1864. He was admitted to the Bar in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1888, and came to Sapulpa, Oklahoma, April 7, 1904, by train.

Mr. Mars and family rented a two-story, frame house on Birch Street, from Mr. Dyer.

In his practice of law, he was attorney for guardians and administrators of Indian wards. He contested and cleared oil and gas leases over Creek, Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Muskogee Counties.

He had the distinction of drawing up the lease for Robert Gilbreath and Mr. Chestley, which was an oil and gas lease on the allotment of Ida and Robert Glen, where the first discovery oil well was drilled in Glen Pool.

The Glen Pool oil field was named after the Glen children.

He also drew up the charter for the third bank in

MARS, JAMES J. INTERVIEW.

6772

-2-

Sapulpa, which was the International Bank; later being changed to the American National Bank.

The men who started this bank were Charles Wills, H. H. Johnston, W. C. Hoover, and L. B. Jackson.

The fourth bank was the Creek Bank and Trust Company, located in Joe Denton's building on E. Dewey Street.

The fifth bank was the Sapulpa State Bank, owned by J. H. McCouly, who took over the assets of B. C. Burnett's bank; known as the Farmer and Merchants' Bank, which had been the first bank in Sapulpa.

The sixth bank was the Bank of Commerce, run by W. B. Key and Son on the corner of Park and Dewey Streets.

When Mr. Mars first came to Sapulpa, Main Street was the busiest part of town. East Dewey Street was then a corn field. Now, Dewey Street is the busiest part of town.

The U. S. Court was held on West Dewey Street, in a building known as Hereford's Building, located two blocks west of Main Street. There were also only two hotels in Sapulpa. The Ripley Hotel, located on North Main and Hobson Streets, and the Virden Hotel, (owned by Henry Land, a Creek Indian) which was located across the street from

MARS, JAMES J. INTERVIEW.

6772

-3-

the Ripley Hotel. The whole town then consisted of only ten brick buildings.

During rainy weather Main Street was impassable as it was not paved.

High School and Grade School was a two-story, frame building, located on East Dewey where the courthouse is now located.

Mr. Mars helped prevent the United States District Court from being removed from Sapulpa. It was in litigation which lasted two months.

He was admitted to practice in the Illinois Supreme Court, December 9, 1902; the Western District Court, December 19, 1904; the United States Supreme Court, April 30, 1906, and the United States Court of Oklahoma, May 9, 1908.

Crops raised by the Indians then were sofka corn, Indian sweet potatoes and peanuts.

The leading Indian farmers were: W. A. Sapulpa, who raised fine corn, fine cattle and Poland China hogs; Wm Anderson, a stockman and farmer, who raised cattle, wheat, corn and oats.