

MASON, TED.

INTERVIEW

10181

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

MASON, TED

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) March 11. 1938

1. Name Mr. Ted Mason.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1119 Penn Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 15 Year 1874

5. Place of birth State of Illinois.

6. Name of Father J. W. Mason, Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father Age 93, still living.

7. Name of Mother Zaralda Lindale Place of birth _____

Other information about mother Died at the age of 68.

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.

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Jasper H. Mead,
Investigator,
March 11, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Ted Mason,
1119 Penn Avenue,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is Ted Mason. I was born August 15th, 1874, in the state of Illinois, sixty-four years ago. The first place I landed when I came to the Territory was about two miles east of Chickasha on the Henry Johnson Ranch. There were lots of cattle and tall grass on this ranch and there was also some farming.

I got \$50.00 per month as a farm hand. Chickasha, at the time I first landed here in 1904 or 1905, was known to have the largest feeding pens in the world. The main water supply came from dug wells and from the Washita River. The Washita River is a spring-fed stream and is very small but I think it runs more water than Red River.

Chickasha, in 1905, was a very small place with dirt streets and plank sidewalks and all of its buildings were frame but two and they were of small bricks made of red clay. These bricks were made at a place about two miles south of Chickasha on what is now called the old Baker Hill.

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The post office in Chickasha has been moved three times since 1905. It was located twice on Third Street and is now located on North Fourth Street.

Some old timers who have lived in Chickasha longer than I have, say that the main street in Chickasha used to be the bed of the Washita River and I know it to be a fact that when you dig wells and storm cellars in different places you dig up shells of all sizes and shapes.

There used to be a wooden building which stood up on stilts on the southwest corner of Third and Chickasha Avenues and under this building there was a hitching rack, and I have tied my horse under there lots of times.

The Rock Island Railroad which runs north and south was built through Chickasha in 1898, and the 'Frisco which runs east and west was built through there in 1902.

The Rock Island Railroad is the railroad that did away with the old Chisholm Trail which ran north out of Texas, across Oklahoma, and into Kansas. This trail came about three miles east of Chickasha, where it crossed the Little Washita River about a mile and a half northwest of

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a small place called Lucile. All the country around Chickasha, except on the northeast, is just a big fertile valley.

There were not many Indians around Chickasha in 1905 and the most of them were from Verden on west. I have seen a real Indian tepee town located on top of the three red hills east of Verden about a mile.

I have lived in and around Chickasha for thirty-three years, and seventeen years of this time I was employed at the Chickasha Ice and Cold Storage Company, located on North Sixth Street.