

GOETTING, CECIL

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Thad Smith JrThis report made on (date) September 9, 1937Name Cecil GoettingPost Office Address ChickashaResidence address (or location) 2028 South 5th StreetDATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 11 Year 1894Place of birth Cherokee StripName of Father Charles C. Goetting Place of birth OhioOther information about father Buried in OklahomaName of Mother Susan Dyas Place of birth OhioOther information about mother Of German descent

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and history 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 10

Thad Smith Jr.
Interviewer
September 9, 1937

Interview with
Cecil Goetting
2028 South 5th Street
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born in the Cherokee Strip in 1894. My father made the run to the Strip and got a place near Blackwell, but sold it in 1901, for \$11,000.00. He then moved to the Caddo country, where he sub-leased some land from William Lamb, belonging to James M. Davis, an intermarried citizen.

The land isn't considered extra good now, as it is rolling; but when my father farmed it, he raised sixty bushels of corn to the acre, and it was only cultivated once.

My father sold the corn to George D. Norton, a white man, who had a ranch just inside the Chickasaw Nation, for twenty cents a bushel. Mr. Norton fed the corn to some Texas steers in a feed pen.

We lived in a small box house about five miles from the Washita school house. My three older brothers, my sister and I went to school in a buggy. We had to cross a Creek called Jack Hollow to get to school. Sometimes the creek would be up, but we

would just drive right on in, and we always made it all right. Although it would be considered dangerous now for children to take the chances we did, we thought nothing of it.

Our teacher, Miss Eloise Bell, rode to the school horse-back and crossed the same place that we did, on Jack Hollow.

~~We had church and Sunday School in our school house~~
every Sunday. Brother Miller, a Methodist, was our preacher. My father did all of his trading at Chickasha, which was nine miles southeast of where we lived. The road which we traveled was an angle road which crossed the Washita River at what was then called the Maupin crossing. There was a ferry boat that was used during high water at a charge of fifty cents. It was put there by John Turner, but was later sold to George D. Norton.

I used to go fishing in the Washita river, with my uncle, Chris Dyas, before there was any law to protect the fish. My uncle made his living catching and selling fish. He would set several hoop nets in the river, in the deepest channel, as more fish travel there. We would use a row boat and a pole to find the channel.

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When he robbed his nets, he would get a wagon load of five, eight and ten pound fish. Nearly all of them were cat fish.

Even though we lived only nine miles from Chickasha where we got our mail, neither we nor our neighbors went to town very often, so we put up a big wooden mail box, nearest to all of us, and whoever went to town brought out mail for all of us and put it in this box and we would go there and get our mail.

There were lots of badgers in the country and it used to be our pastime and amusement to go to a badger and dog fight. Most of the fights were held two miles southeast of Chickasha. I have seen as many as five hundred people attend a fight. The charge was twenty-five cents a person. Most of the dogs that fought were big bull dogs, but the badger always won the fight.

There were a good many quail in the country and a few prairie chickens when we first came but they were soon killed out.

W. G. Williams, a white man who had married a Caddo Indian, lived about six miles west of us. He had lots of good cattle and horses. The horses were high bred, and wild, but the homesteaders bought and farmed with them. Mr. Williams' brand was a half Moon, D.