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Interview with Joe Graham
Field Worker, Etta Mason
May 18, 1937

Joe Graham was born December 1, 1851, where the town of Henryetta is now located.

His father was Bob Graham, born in Alabama.

His mother was Melvina Aaron born in Alabama.

His father and mother were slaves, belonging to Chickasaws.

Joe Graham grew up with the Indians and learned to speak the Indian language.

The Indians lived in log houses but did not work very much. There was plenty of game and wild fruits and with their Tom/Fuller patches they did not need to work.

Joe Graham knew Tom Dickens, the most important man in the community. Joe Graham attended the Indians religious meetings and finally preached to them himself.

He can sing in the Indian language.

He is very superstitious and claims he has encountered "haunts" even in the community where he lives. He lives in the negro section in Etta.

He says the Indians were contented and peaceable. He said the Indians put the personal property of the dead in the grave with the body and that many of the Indians put money in the grave with the dead so that the departed one could buy rifles and ammunition when he arrived at the Happy Hunting Ground.