

JONES, JAKE

INTERVIEW

9130

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

JONES, JAKE.

INTERVIEW.

9130.

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.

This report made on (date) November 3, 1937

1. Name Jake Jones

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1218 South Shepard Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 10 Year 1854.

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father Charlie Jones Place of birth Cherokee Nation,  
Indian Territory.

Other information about father Buried in Oklahoma.

7. Name of Mother Judy Wallace Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother Buried in Texas.

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 4.

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Thad Smith, Jr.  
Investigator.  
November 3, 1937.

Interview with Jake Jones.  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.  
Born March 10, 1854.  
Father-Charlie Jones  
Mother-Judy Wallace.

I was born in 1854, in Arkansas. In 1878, when I was about twenty-four, I hired out to the Government as a teamster to haul supplies from San Antonio, Texas to Fort Sill, Fort Cobb and Anadarko, Indian Territory.

We freighted with four mules hitched to tar pole wagons. That is, the wagon spindles were made of hardwood, that didn't have any grain in it and they were greased with tar. Occasionally we would burn out a spindle and have to replace it.

There were usually six wagons that traveled together. Our wagon train boss was Captain Drown.

We forded Red River at the old Chisholm Trail Crossing. We always spliced teams there to pull the wagons across Red River and we usually hitched sixteen mules to each wagon. The wagons were loaded with guns, ammunition,

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and food supplies for the soldiers and were very heavily laden. We were escorted by four soldiers. Usually two rode behind and two in front of us. At night when we were afraid of a night attack by the Indians, we would make a circle of our wagons and keep our mules within the circle, and station men in each wagon with guns.

We were attacked many times by the Indians and killed several Indians, but we never lost a man, although several of our men were hit with arrows, but they all survived. I had my cap knocked off once by an arrow. Not all of the Indians we saw were hostile. Some of them were friendly. They always traveled in single file.

We all wore the regular blue uniform of the United States with the letters U. S. stamped on our caps. We were issued two suits each.

The Government issued us lots of good things to eat, all kinds of canned goods, meat, dried fruits, etc. We had a big tin tank fastened to the side of our wagon, that we hauled our drinking water in. We had tents that we used summer and winter. We always took along extra mules

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to work in case one should get sick or have sore shoulders, or go lame. We always hobbled our mules at night.

The grass in the Territory was tall, and in some places would hide a horse or mule. In a lot of places the road was very dim, and sometimes our creek crossings would be washed out so that we would have to go away round and make a new crossing. It took us three months to make the round trip to San Antonio and back, and we were on the go all of the time.

I drove a freight team for the Government for five years, getting \$15.00 per month and my board.