

GRAYSON, JESS

INTERVIEW

6958

407

GRAYSON, JESS.

INTERVIEW.

6958.

Henry Day,  
Field Worker,  
July 23, 1937.

An Interview With Jess Grayson,  
Dustin, Oklahoma.

I, Jess Grayson was born December, 1870. I am of Irish descent. I was born in Tennessee. My father and Mother were both of Irish descent. Father died in 1892; Mother died in 1896. Father was an old Confederate soldiers

When we first came into this country, there were no white people only the school teachers. You would see them once in a while. There were lots of Indians; some could speak English and some could not but they were friendly. We lived on a farm which was owned by a man named David Cummings. He was a well educated man. He owned an inland store near the present site of Hanna in McIntosh County. This was an Indian trading post. In those days, Indians used to have some dogs, what they called Sofkey Dogs, but they sure would hunt. We lived on this farm for twenty years.

In those days there were cow trails from Denison, Texas, to Coffeyville, Kansas. The trails used to run about two miles west of the present town of Wetunka and west of Weleetka to Deep Fork River and into Okmulgee. Travellers

GRAYSON, JESS.

INTERVIEW.

695B.

-2-

over these cow trails would stay in Okmulgee about a week and then would start for Coffeyville, Kansas.

They took their cattle in the spring to Coffeyville and in the fall they took their cattle back to Denison. Okmulgee was headquarters, for these cattlemen at that time. Okmulgee was just an inland town. There was one

General Merchandise Store in Okmulgee, owned by the late Frederick B. Severs. There was one blacksmith shop in Okmulgee owned by a colored man, named George Dan; he was a Creek Freedman. There was a postoffice in Okmulgee and Christopher C. Belcher was the postmaster.

The only other building in Okmulgee in those early days was the old Creek Council House, which is still standing.