

GREER, SONEY

INTERVIEW

7280

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

GREER, SONEY

INTERVIEW

#7280

Field Worker's name James S. Buchanan

This report made on (date) August 18, 1937

1. Name Soney Greer

2. Post Office Address Muskogee, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 620 North 15th

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 6 Year 1850

5. Place of birth Drew County, Arkansas

6. Name of Father Harry Greer Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father He was a slave

7. Name of mother Loucenda Greer Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

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 sheets.

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James S. Buchanan
Field Worker
August 18, 1937.

Interview with Soney Greer
620 North 15th.

I, Soney Greer, was born January 6, 1850, on a plantation in Drew County, Arkansas. My father and mother, Harry and Loucenda Greer, were slaves of a man by the name of Greer, and were sold to another slaveowner by the name of Cal Rogers of Arkansas, when I was about five or six years of age.

When the Civil War broke out, my master took all his slaves and went to Texas and bought a plantation on Red River, twenty-five miles north of Clarksville, Texas, where we were when the war closed and we slaves were all set free. My parents continued to live in Texas after emancipation and spent the remainder of their lives in that State.

In 1874, I was married to Phillis Warthan, in Texas, who became a free slave when seven years old. No children were born to us. My wife is yet living and we have spent sixty-three years together. We moved to the Indian Territory in 1903 and settled in Muskogee.

Refugees from all parts of the Indian Territory and Arkansas came into Texas along Red River during the war.

Many steamboats operated on Red River, and the most of the

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freight for that part of the country was handled by boats. I remember one boat in particular, The Little George, hauled cotton from the plantations to the Mississippi River and a general cargo of freight for plantation, on return trip. The whistle of the Little George was a familiar sound as it was on the river so long. When the darkies would hear that whistle, they would shout "Little George around the bend!"