

GROSS, SAMUEL M.

INTERVIEW

9795

280

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

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead,

This report made on (date) January 27, 1938

Name Samuel M. Cross,

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) West of Town.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 9 Year 1875

5. Place of birth State of Alabama.

6. Name of Father J. G. Gross, Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father Died at the age of 83.

7. Name of Mother Carrie Bogess, Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother Died at the age of 77.

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 2.

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Jasper H. Mead,
Investigator,
January 27, 1938.

An Interview with Samuel M. Gross,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born February 9, 1875, in Alabama, sixty-three years ago, and came to the Indian Territory in 1898. The first place I landed was at El Reno, which place in 1898 was nothing but an Army Post. Here, practically all the soldiers from that post were used to stop the Indians when they went on the warpath.

The country around El Reno was what you would call flat prairie, covered with blue stem grass and lots of cattle; there were several ranches around there; two of them were the John Samer Ranch and the Ross Ranch. I used to work on the Ross Ranch, I got \$25.00 per month and board and room. Wages generally ran from \$15.00 to \$40.00 per month and board and room.

The Rock Island Railroad ran west out of El Reno to Weatherford; it was called the Choctaw Railroad then.

The main water supply came from dug wells and springs.

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There were many Indians around El Reno. I have seen them with nothing on but their breech clout and a blanket thrown around them. I have actually seen them roast dry land terrapins by the wagon loads and eat them as soon as they got through kicking.

There was lots of wild game around El Reno; such as deer, turkeys, prairie chickens; there were also lots of wild horses. I used to own one.

The old Chisholm Trail passed a little south of El Reno, across Powder Face Crossing, across the South Canadian River, two or three miles below Bridgeport. This trail and crossing were traveled by a stage line that went west out to Cheyenne.

I finally moved farther west and homesteaded forty miles southeast of Cheyenne and fourteen miles south of Elk City. I proved up my homestead and finally sold it and came back east.

The kind of "laws" we had then were United States Marshals. The only one I knew was Doc Ramsey. I have lived in and around Chickasha for fourteen years. I am a concrete finisher and a farmer by trade.