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BERNARD, T. D.

INTERVIEW

9934

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

BERNARD, T. D. INTERVIEW.

1934

Field Worker's name Jasner H. Mead,

This report made on (date) February 11, 1935.

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1. Name T. D. Bernard,

2. Post Office Address Chickasha.

3. Residence address (or location) 1102 South 12th Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August 3, Day Year 1873

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father B. D. Bernard Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Died at the age of 45

7. Name of Mother Mintie L. Richardson Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother Died at the age of 70

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

Investigator, Jasper H. Mead,
February 11, 1938.

Interview with T. D. Bernard,
1102 South 12th Street,
Chickasha.

My name is T. D. Bernard and I was born in the state of Kansas, fifty-nine years ago. I came to the Indian Territory thirty-eight years ago, and the first place I landed was at a small place then called Lathrum. After Statehood, in 1907, the name of this place was changed and it was called Carnegie. I was in the drawing when that part of the state was opened up and I drew a place seven miles south of Carnegie, which lay in the foot-hills of the Wichita Mountains. The land around there is what you would call hard land country; this kind of land had what they called short grass on it. I have seen several deer and worlds of prairie chickens up and down Cobb Creek. The main water supply came from dug wells and a few springs and most of the dug wells were straight dirt walls on the inside with two wooden buckets to the well, one on each end of the rope.

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The Rock Island branch line was built through Carnegie in 1898. It ran from Chickasha to Mangum; the nickname of the line is the Mangum Branch Line.

In 1901 or 1902 the people just began breaking out the sod, turning it over for the first time and the land was so heavily matted with grass and grass roots that it was very hard to plow, and most of the people who drew places would take this sod and shape it up into chunks about eight feet wide and twelve feet long and lay it like laying brick with the exception of the cement. This is the way they would build their houses.

The first school building close to Carnegie was built in 1905. It was called a subscription school; the parents had to pay \$1.00 for each child they had in school, each month. This building was a frame box building about 20 x 40; we also had Church in this building whenever a preacher would happen to come along.

There were a great many Indians around Carnegie, but they never did give any trouble.

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I have lived around Chickasha for eleven years
and am a farmer by trade.