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BOND, DAVID.

INTERVIEW

6533

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

BOND, DAVID.

INTERVIEW.

6533.

Field Worker's name Pete W. Cole.This report made on (date) June 26, 19371. Name David Bond.2. Post Office Address Atoka Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ 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 3.

BOND, DAVID.

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Pete Cole.

June 26, 1937.

Investigator.

An Interview with David Bond,  
Atoka, Oklahoma.

When the Choctaws left the state of Mississippi, after the agreements were made with the United States Government that the Indians could settle in any portion of the country west of the Mississippi River, they came to the Indian Territory. They did not know where they could locate or the distance they had to travel, yet they came. Some rode horses, some came in wagons and others on foot. After wandering for some time they finally came to the country where they were to make their new home.

One of the locations where they first settled was a strip of land east of Stringtown. A few years later some of the other Choctaws from Mississippi, who had been living elsewhere drifting here and there, finally settled with the rest of the immigrants near the banks of McGee Creek in the Indian Territory. As a rule they preferred living in a locality where there were several other families, thus making a settlement. In a short time this country was settled and there was a regular village of community Indians.

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After settling down and making improvements by clearing off a piece <sup>of</sup> land they began to farm. They built houses and barns, dug wells, and made other improvements, then decided that they needed a church or some place where they could have a place to worship.

There were such men as George Peter, a minister at that time, Jesse Bond, David Noah, Martin Charleston, George Pitts, James Hudson, Logan James, Charles Loman and Moses Bond with their families, who played prominent parts in bringing about the erection of the Goodland Church. They held their meetings under some arbor, as was generally the case; until one day there was brought up a conversation about building a church, when some of the members were gathered, and finally decided on building the church house.

It was first made of logs, and some years later, the members raised sufficient funds to build a larger house and when ready they tore down the log house and built another church house out of lumber, which served the public for a number of years. This church was organized about the year 1874, but it was several years afterward when the church was built and today it is nothing new to the people of Atoka County that during the meeting the Indians as well as the whites would gather here and

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enjoy the services. Sermons used to be preached in the Choctaw and the English language. Singing / <sup>from</sup> English

hymn books was common as the youngsters at this place were all good singers and at any time when service was over one could see the singers gather around the organ and all take part in the singing and good times were enjoyed by all.

There have been some very prominent people that once took part in the upbuilding of this old church.

The old grave is still visible; where once there was a well kept place, now lies in ruins, caved in, and the young trees that once stood over the graves are now huge trees. This church did not reserve any right for church purposes, and since the members either have died or moved away there is nothing to show where the church once stood as it is in a pasture, and where the camps stood when the campers fed many and many people at these camps during the big meetings, is a garden that is being worked by the renter who lives near the famous old place. Since the abandonment of this old place the old site has gone back to what it was before human civilization ever located at this place.