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INTERVIEW WITH I. V. JONES (WHITE)
TEN MILES NORTHWEST OF CHICKASHA,
OKLAHOMA.

BORN KANSAS
JANUARY 14, 1885

PARENTS Gaac Jones, Indian (Father)
Northern Soldier, buried in
Texas.
Margaret Humphrey, Missouri
buried in Kansas.

In the early spring of 1889, my father, two brothers, three sisters and I were living in Colorado. I was four years old at the time, also the youngest. My mother died when I was one year old.

My father read of the opening of Oklahoma, to be, and decided to come to the opening. We left Colorado with two wagons and teams, driving into No-man's land, Now

Cimmaron County. Our horses were poor, and we stopped at Tyrone for some time to let our horses rest up. As we were not going to get to the line in time to run for a claim. While we were there my father sold one wagon and team, and we came on in one wagon.

When we arrived at Frisco, a little inland store, my father found a fraction of land on the North Canadian river near by, that had not been filed on. He built a little log house on this land and filed on it. Just as soon as the house was built he made a trip to Caldwell, Kansas, to get

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windows and lumber to make the doors. That fall my oldest brother broke out a few acres of land with an ox team, later he and my father went to the Indian Territory near Chickasha, to gather corn for a man named Charlie Campbell. While he was there he found out that he could get a five year lease on good bottom land, by breaking the land and paying a dollar an acre lease after the first year. Thinking this a good deal, he sold a relinquishment on his claim, and in 1890 moved to where Chickasha now stands. It was then the headquarters of the swinging ring ranch, then owned by George R. Beeler. There was a very small amount of land in the Washita Valley in cultivation at that time. My father rented, broke out, and farmed what is now the Chickasha townsite.

Jim Carey ran a general mercantile store at Fred, located three miles south and two miles east of where Chickasha is now, and my father made a contract with him to do his freighting from Minco, then the end of the Rock Island railroad, twenty miles north, and Purcell that was forty miles east on the Santa Fe railroad. When he freighted from Purcell, he crossed the Washita river east of where Chickasha now is, at what was then known as the Merchant crossing. When freighting from Minco, he crossed the Washita river northeast of where

Chickasha is now, at what was known as the Moppin crossing.

My father continued freighting for Mr. Carey until the Rock Island railroad got its road built to Chickasha, and Mr. Carey moved his store there.

Father then got a Government contract to carry mail from Chickasha to Anadarko, also to haul freight for Mr. Cragg and Mr. Cleveland, then merchants in Anadarko.

I had attended a school in Chickasha in 1890-1891-1892 that was known as a subscription school, as the parents paid one and one half dollar a month per child, to the teacher. Most usually the school was held in one room of some one's home or in an empty building. We had chairs to sit on and used tables for desks.

We moved to Anadarko in 1893, I attended school at the Indian Missionary school with the Caddos, Wichitas and Kiowas.

In the spring of 1894, I returned to Chickasha and finished the school term there.

That fall my father got a contract from the Government to bale prairie hay near Fort Sill. I went there with him to help bale this hay. We had two horse power balers, and we baled two hundred tons.

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In the spring of 1895, I went to work for George D. Norton on a cattle ranch. He had some large pastures and was pasturing four hundred head for John and Robert Thompson, branded figure eight 8; twelve hundred head for Doctor Emery, a Texas man, branded D-E; and four hundred head for John Russell, branded bar twenty 20; besides four hundred head of his own cattle, branded U. I worked for Mr. Norton until 1898, then I went to Granite to go to school, staying with a married sister.

In 1901 the Rock Island railroad had built a spur to Mangum, and I rode on the train back to Chickasha. That fall I was present when the Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche reservation was opened for drawing in the fall of 1901.

I have seen many Indian dances, some of them were called gift dances. I have seen them lead a horse in the ring where they were dancing, and dance around him for a while, then present him to some visiting Indian.