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HOLMAN, BLAIN. INTERVIEW

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Johnson H. Hampton,
Interviewer.
August 12, 1937.

Interview with Blain Holman (Chickasaw Freedman)
Antlers, Oklahoma.
Born September 16, 1888.
Father-Harry Holman.
Mother-Jane Holman

I was born on the 16th day of September, 1888, at Bluff, Oklahoma. It was then Bluff, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory.

My father's name was Harry Holman and my mother's name Jane Holman. My father was reared at Doakville, and my mother was reared in Texas. My grandfather's name was Henry Holman, and my grandmother's name was Louisa Holman. They were slaves owned by a man named Folsom, but I don't know his first name. This man owned several slaves at that time, and after the war when they were freed they took their master's name and called themselves Folsom. My father took his stepfather's name, so we are known as Holmans.

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I don't know much about how they lived at that time, but I think that they had plenty to eat, for they were slaves at that time. This man Folsom was a Chickasaw Indian, so after the Dawes Commissioners came down to enroll us we were enrolled as Chickasaw Freedman. This was because the man who owned them was a Chickasaw. We got forty acres of land in the Choctaw Nation, but we did not go to Chickasaw Nation to file on our land for we had been reared in this country, so we just filed our land and lived here.

The family then moved to what was known as Bluff, where I was born and reared. A great many freedman moved there from Old Doakville and lived at Bluff. This village was on the Red River.

I don't know how my people lived after they were freed, but I have been told that they stayed with their one time master for a few years and worked on the farm for him. He paid them for their work, and they lived pretty well. They finally had to get out and rustle for themselves so they opened up a farm, a small one and raised their corn, and beans and potatoes, and such.

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When I was born at Eluff they had a small farm of about five acres which was about all they had in cultivation, for they did not need much of a farm. At that time the Indians did not have anything but small farms, and of course the freedmen were reared among them, so they didn't work like they should but just raised enough corn to make their bread, which was about all they needed.

The country was full of wild game such as deer, turkeys, and plenty of fish on the creeks. We did not have to work hard to live at that time; we would get out into the woods and kill a deer and turkey any time we wanted to and there were lots of prairie chickens on the prairies. In fact there was plenty to eat everywhere. We had to go over to the Texas side to get our corn ground, and to get our cotton ginned, that is what little cotton we made. We did not raise much cotton in those days, for we could not take care of the crops.

We had a few head of cattle, hogs, and some ponies which were wild. They were not molested by any one, they just ran out in the woods every spring. We did

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have lots of fun tanning them, and it would take us about two or three days to get them in the pen. The corral was out in the woods for it was impossible to get them to the house to put them in a pen.

I am a Chickasaw Freedman, I have lived among the Choctaw Indians all of my life. I have worked for them and have traded with them, they are just as honest as any people can be. They are dependable and I never had an enemy among them and never had any trouble with them in all my life, I think that they are the best people anywhere. I filed my land here and I don't think that I will live anywhere else but in this country, now Oklahoma.

I have forgotten many instances that have happened in my life and what I have heard the older people talk about. If I had had an education I might have remembered things that would have been interesting. I have no education at all, so I can't tell much of anything that has happened.