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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
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Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) July 26 1937

1. Name Arthur Neel Leecraft

2. Post Office Address Durant, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1311 North Fifth

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

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

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

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

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 4

I, with two other delegates, namely: Dr. T. P. Howell of Davis, who is still living and is ninety years old, and E. B. Johnson of Norman, were appointed by Governor Douglas H. Johnston, as delegates to Washington, in interest of Chickasaws.

The purpose of this delegation was to take the matter up with congress for the continuation of Chickasaw tribal Government, which was about to expire. It was felt necessary to have tribal Government continue, even though in a limited way, to prevent the M. K. & T. Railroad from claiming possession of every other section of land, joining its right of way throughout the Indian Territory.

It seems that the United States Government gave a grant to the Railroad Company to induce building the railroad through the Indian Territory, which was practically uninhabited at that time, but that such conveyance of title would not be perfected until the tribal Government ceased to function.

The Chickasaw delegation protested to Congress that the United States Government hadn't any right to convey property by grant to the railroad company, that belonged to the Chickasaws. The delegation further prayed

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Congress to continue the form of tribal Government, in order to prevent the railroad company attempting seizure of the property along its right of way as above described. Congress responded to the prayer of the Indian delegation and the tribal Government continued in a very limited way, which is in force until this date.

While it is true that the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation have very little functions to perform owing to the fact that neither Nation has an Indian Legislature, nor the power originally vested in that, yet some old claims remain unsettled. Mineral lands, principally coal, are still the property of the two tribes.

The continuance of tribal Government provided that in case of death of the Governor of the Chickasaws or Chief of the Choctaws, such vacancies would be filled by appointment, by the President of the United States.

The Principal Chief, Honorable Green McCurtain, only lived a few years after this agreement was made and several others have passed away. The President has made such an appointment. Honorable W. A. Durant was recently appointed. In the case of the Chickasaws there has been no vacancy. Douglas H. Johnston is still

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Governor of his tribe, and has filled this position over thirty years. He is still vigorous, and spends a great deal of time in Washington.

Mansfield, McMurray, and Melvin Cornish were general attorneys for the Chickasaws at that time. They were in Washington when the delegation arrived. Mervin Cornish is now living in McAlester, Oklahoma.

The delegation was entertained in Washington at the home of Mrs. Vinnie Reams, a noted artist. Her favors were the little "pipes of peace."