

LEE, FOREST.

INTERVIEW

8584

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LEE, FOREST

INTERVIEW
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149) #858473

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.

This report made on (date) September 21, 1937 1937

1. Name Forest Lee (Negro)

2. Post Office Address Chickasha

3. Residence address (or location) Route 3

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 4 Year 1879

5. Place of birth Texas

Name of Father Dallas Lee Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Buried in Oklahoma

6. Name of Mother Margaret Shields Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother Buried in Texas

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

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Investigator,
Thad Smith Jr.,
September 21, 1937

Interview with Forest Lee (Negro)
Chickasha, Oklahoma

I came to the Indian Territory in 1901, late in the fall. I landed in Chickasha and got a job working on the railroad, at \$40.00 per month. I worked at this job for two years. In those days the trains were heavily loaded with freight and passengers.

There were thousands of Texas cattle shipped to Chickasha, to be driven from there to grass, nearby. The grass was big and fine and the stock did well. In the fall of the year, lots of fat cattle were shipped to Kansas City to market.

After I quit my job working for the railroad, I did quite a bit of running around. I attended an Indian dance near Geary, that was attended by several different tribes. The Indians had all come by horseback or in wagons, mostly wagons as they had their tepees with them. Some of them slept and ate under brush arbors.

I noticed that some of the Indians would whip their
fresh beef with some kind of a weed. After they were through

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doing this the flies wouldn't light on the beef. Most of the Indians were working or riding good horses. A good many of the horses were paints.

I noticed that some of the old Indians talked the sign talk with their hands.

I never saw very much wild game in the Territory when I first came but there were quite a few fish in the rivers.

There were a good many negroes in Chickasha when I first came and they had a school and a Methodist church and a Baptist church. The Methodist preacher's name was Owens.

In 1903 and 1904 I picked cotton near Carnegie in the Kiowa Country. The Kiowa Indians lived mostly in Tepees. There were holes in the tops of the tepee to let the smoke out, and their fires were built in the center of the tepees. The smoke would drift out of the tops of the tepees without smoking the tepee at all. Just a small fire would keep a tepee warm. The Indians had blankets which they slept on and covered themselves with in the winter.

I picked cotton on the north side of the Washita River, in the Caddo country, late in the fall of 1903. The Caddo's home was more substantial, and permanent, being made of small poles set up.

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perpendicularly and the cracks between the posts were daubed up with clay. The roofs were of board shingles which were made with a frow.

Nearly all of the Indians who lived around us had small patches of corn and a few pumpkins and beans. I have lived in the Indian Territory continuously since I came.