

LEYERLE, W. A.

INTERVIEW

#9328

26

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) November 24, 1937

1. Name W. A. Leyerle

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1211 South 15th

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 12, Year 1874

5. Place of birth Chicago, Illinois

6. Name of Father W. A. Leyerle Place of birth Leith, Scotland

Other information about father Died at the age of 87

7. Name of Mother Mary Settlemore Place of birth British Isles

Other information about mother Died at age of 82

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 .

LEYERLE, A. A. INTERVIEW. 9328

Jasper H. Mead
Investigator
November 24, 1937

Interview with A. A. Leyerle
1271 South 10th street
Chickasha, Oklahoma

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, October 1, 1874, sixty-three years ago, and came to the Indian Territory in 1897. The first place I landed was Vinita, which ~~was then a very small place. Most of the buildings~~ were wooden with the exception of three or four small one story brick buildings.

Vinita at this time didn't have any pavements, nothing but plank sidewalks which were about four feet ~~wide except where the walk would pass in front of the~~ stores.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad ran through Vinita. I do not remember the date it was ~~built through there but it was there when I landed~~ there.

The country around Vinita is what I would call flat prairie land; there was lots of ranch land and lots of cattle and what farming that was done around there was called hay work. It was a very good hay country.

LEYERLE, H. A. INTERVIEW. 9328

-2-

The main water supply came from dug wells and springs; these dug wells were extra deep and some of them were eighty feet deep. The water was extra good and the spring water couldn't be beaten anywhere.

There was plenty of wild game around Vinita such as wild turkey, deer and prairie chickens. I never did see any buffalo around there; the people who had been there longer than I had said that the buffalo were located in the western part of the state and in Texas.

The kind of "laws" we had around there were the United States marshals, furnished by the United States Government. We also had a town marshal who was paid by the people of the town. I used to know both of them well but I have forgotten their names.

We had a two roomed school building and two teachers. The school term then lasted for six months; the teachers then were paid by the people, and generally stayed at the house of one of the pupils.

I have lived in Chickasha for fourteen years; I have railroaded quite a bit of my life, but for the last few years I have been a horticulturist.