

MELTON, G. A.

INTERVIEW

12955

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

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Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) February 12 1938

1. Name G. A. Melton

2. Post Office Address Milburn, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____ (in town) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 16 Year 1849

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____.

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Lula Austin,
Investigator,
February 12, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. G.A. Melton,
Milburn, Oklahoma.

I came from Texas sixty-five years ago and located on Blue River on the old stage route which operated from Caddo to Fort Sill. An old negro called "old Square Wolf" kept the stage stand east of Blue River. He would not allow a negro on the place and fed only white people. Every other day the wild Comanche Indians hauled freight from Caddo and passed over this stage route; soldiers accompanied them; some Indians would be on horseback and others walking along beside the ox wagons. Their greeting to us would be "hi Johnny! When my father first came here from Texas he farmed, raising wheat cotton and corn which he hauled to Denison to market.

I was a member of the last Chickasaw Legislature and was appointed United States Marshal at the first state election after statehood.

Sab Love contracted with the Chickasaws to go to Washington to collect their claim for property they left

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when they came West. He agreed to do this for ten per cent of their claims. He went to Washington and won the claim, but the Chickasaws who had the claims did not get but twenty per cent. Mr. Mars of Pauls Valley who married one of the Love girls was state senator and introduced a bill in the legislature to reimburse the Love heirs to the amount of \$45,000.00, claiming that Love did not receive his per cent. I knew that the claimants got only twenty per cent of what was due them so I got up to defeat the bill, I watched for a time and caught some of the most influential absent one day. I got up and made a motion to suspend the rules and put the bill upon its passage, got a vote on it and it was carried. Then I got up and made a motion to kill the bill, and the bill was killed. I showed and proved that Love was fraudulently trying to get the bill through.

I had a letter from J. H. Godrey complimenting me for defeating the bill; he stated that they could not get up a similar bill but might get up one in a different form and if they did he told me to wire him at once and he would

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come to my aid. He said that he knew how that money had gone. My wife was due \$1500.00 but all she received was twenty per cent of that amount. I fought the expense bill; you couldn't raise a salary under the constitution. The regular salary paid to a legislator was \$6.00 a day. A bill was passed paying legislators \$4.00 a day^{-extra} as an expense bill. I fought it, but passed over the governor's veto.

I was with Governor R. M Harris (before he was governor.) He was living on the old ranch place south of Milburn caring for his grandmother's cattle. He and I and several cowboys ran into a big black bear while out rounding up the cattle. We roped the bear and managed to drag him home. Mr. Harris tied him with chains to a tree and kept him there until the Fourth of July- then killed him and gave a big dinner and after the dinner we danced until morning to the music of a fiddle. Governor Harris first wife was a Chickasaw. I sat up with Governor Harris' father when he died. He was buried a mile and a half north of Milburn on his old farm home.

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I served as Justice of Peace at smet, and also
was Marshal there for several years.