

THORNTON, C: M. INTERVIEW.

#7018

464

THORNTON, C. M. INTERVIEW.

Lawrence A. Williams, Interviewer
Indian-Pioneer History
August 2, 1937

465

Interview with C. M. Thornton,
Whitesboro, Oklahoma.

C. M. Thornton was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas,
December 20, 1880. His father and mother were G. W.
Thornton and Carrie Winton Thornton respectively.

He and his family moved to Indian Territory,
March 15, 1889 and settled on a place called Haworton
Hollow.

Mr. Thornton says:

The first night that I ever spent in what now
is called Oklahoma was the night of March 15, 1889.
We camped on Bohanan Creek, about one mile from old
Lennox and three miles from Whitesboro. The reason
that I can remember it so well is that my baby brother
was born that night. There was about a foot of snow
on the ground the next morning.

We were farmers. So we cut logs and built us a
home and planted a crop. I have heard panthers and

wolves howl all night lots of times and I can remem-
ber when I would go after the cows there would be a
herd of deer grazing with them. I have seen turkeys
feeding with our chickens.

In the year of 1890 my father bought the Sam
Bohanan Trading Post. It was located about one mile

from Old Lennox. I was working for Governor Dukes at that time.

Trails and roads

The Horse Thief Trail:

It was a trail leading from Ft. Smith to the Kiamichi valley. It crossed the Winding Stair Mountain, Wild Horse and Hue Mountains. It joined the Woods Trail at what is now Whitesboro. It was too rough to travel anyway except horse back.

The Old Fort Townsend Road:

It lead from Fort Smith to Fort Townsend. It was built by the soldiers during the Civil War. It crossed the same mountains as the Horse Thief Trail about three miles west of it.

Indian allotments

I was here when the Dawes Commission began its work. The government surveyed all the land and allotted so much to each Indian. As well as I can remember this happened in 1892. C. J. Anderson was the roll caller at that time.

There were a few Indians who wouldn't take the allotment and they were called the Snake Indians.

Schools and Missions

The first school that I ever went to was the Tallibookey school, located at what is now Talihina. There was a school called the Rock Creek school, four miles east of Talihina.

Missions

There was a mission on Frazier Creek, kept by R. E. Wade, a brother to Governor Wade. He was a Baptist preacher. It was located five miles west of Whitesboro on the Arkansas and Stringtown road. It was called Wadesville. There was a Presbyterian Mission called the Hobbs Mission on Bohanan Creek three miles west of Whitesboro. It was built by Rev. Hobbs.

Stomp Dance Sites

It was quite amusing to see the Indians dance.

~~They would build a large fire and dance around it.~~

They had hollow logs with buck skin stretched across the ends to beat on for music. The dancers would all have what they called chobias tied around their necks. These were made of dried terrapin hulls with small rocks in them.