

TUCKER, FRANK

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Melvin Stites

This report made on (date) April 19, 1938

1. Name Frank Tucker

2. Post Office Address Eufaula, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 7, Year 1877

5. Place of birth Tobucksy County, Choctaw Nation, near Eufaula.

6. Name of Father Robert Tucker; ran ferry at Rock Ford, Mississippi
Place of birth Mississippi

7. Name of Mother Tilda Edmiston Place of birth Missouri

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 3

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Investigator,
Melvin Stites,
April 19, 1938

Interview with Frank Tucker
Eufaula, Oklahoma

I was born in 1877 in Tobucksy County, Choctaw Nation. My father had come from Mississippi many years before. He made the trip in wagons drawn by ox teams. At the time of my birth my father ran a ferry across the South Canadian at a point known as Rock Ford where the old Texas Trail crossed the river. I think you will find that the Missouri, Kansas and Texas line through Oklahoma follows pretty much the route of the old Texas Trail as it was in territorial days.

Andy Edmiston, my grandfather on my mother's side, was the first bridge watcher for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas line in this part of the country, at Eufaula.

The firebox of a train in those days was so loosely constructed that there was danger of live coals dropping from it and setting a bridge on fire. My grandfather's duty was to prevent bridges from burning.

~~My boyhood was quite like that of other boys of that~~
time. I went to school as did others in a shirt that reached below the knees. The length of it did away with

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the need of trousers to go over it. When I was about ten years of age, our family was at dinner one day; we heard someone hail us from our yard. We went to the door. There on horses that had fancy saddles with trimmings, dressed very neat and nice, sat Jesse and Frank James and the Younger boys. They needed corn. Father asked 50 cents a bushel for the corn. The outlaws paid him \$1.00 a bushel. The South Canadian ferry happened to be out at that time; the stream was quite swollen, however, this didn't slow the outlaws down any. They plunged their mounts into the stream and swam them across.

New town Eufaula was built when the Katy Railroad came through and one of the first buildings to go up was the Masonic Lodge Building. It stands today housing the oldest lodge of this order in the state of Oklahoma.

The "Indian Journal" is reported to be the oldest newspaper in the state. It was founded in 1776; at one time it was edited by Alexander Posey, the most famous writer of the Five Civilized Tribes. The "Indian

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Journal" is today the official paper of Eufaula and McIntosh County.

"Old town" Eufaula is the oldest town in Oklahoma, except Fort Gibson.