

TYREE, JOHN W.

INTERVIEW

9888

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

#9888

TYREE, JOHN W. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) February 3, 1938

1. Name Mr. John W. Tyree

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Office address - 319 1/2 D

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 1 Year 1896

5. Place of birth Middle Tennessee.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

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 _____

An Interview with John W. Tyree, Lawton, Oklahoma.
By - Ophelia D. Vestal - Investigator.
February 3, 1938.

I came to this country with my parents during the Run of the Cherokee Strip. After the Run we returned to our home state for a few years. During the few years there we lost our mother. Then in 1912 we moved back to this country. It was well settled at this time.

I served in the World War then returned to Lawton and have resided here ever since. I have a farm northeast of town near where the Red Stores were located.

Sometime during the year 1837, the Chouteau brothers came to this settlement, constructing a brick building on the bank of Cache Creek known as a trading store. This little store grew very rapidly to a thriving business. After one or two years the owners were forced to abandon this store because this country became very thickly settled with wild Indians. This was the first structure erected anywhere near here. Some of the bricks are still there.

Just east of this building site, an old trail crosses this farm in the field. I believe it was known as the Fort Worth and Dodge City Trail.

There are many things of interest concerning this place. Large rocks have been found as deep as twenty-five feet. Under these rocks bones of humans have been found. This fact caused people to think it was an Indian burial ground.

Once some men were cutting wood. While cutting down a pecan tree they found some lead in its trunk. It was believed that many years ago a battle was fought here and the lead was hidden in the tree trunk for safe keeping.

Just east of my farm lies the place known as the Emmett Cox place. Here is another construction of among the first in this country. Emmett Cox was a white man who married a full blood Comanche Indian. At the present time this land is owned by a Mr. Silcott.

Over in the field east of my house bones of animals and pieces of pottery have been found. This led many people to believe it must have been a camping place for the Indians in the early days.

On the bank of the creek stands an old oak tree; from indications it is believed to be over 300 years old. I am safe in saying it is the oldest tree anyone knows of around here.

My farm lies one mile long and one-quarter of a mile wide running north and south. The north side lies near the Fort Sill Military Reservation. There is a restriction on people or dogs being on the military reservation. It isn't an unusual sight for one to go to the north side of my place and see as many as fifty deer and many wild turkeys there today.