

VENABLE, CHARLEY

INTERVIEW

10366

305

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

VENABLE, CHARLEY.

INTERVIEW.

10356.

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.This report made on (date) March 25, 1938. 193

1. Name Charley Venable.
2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 824 Oklahoma Avenue.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 14 Year 1868.
5. Place of birth Virginia.

6. Name of Father Marion Venable. Place of birth Virginia.
7. Name of Mother Jane Hill. Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about mother Died at the age of 48.Father died at the age of 60.

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 1.

VENABLE, CHARLEY.

INTERVIEW.

10358.

Jasper H. Mead.
Investigator,
March 25, 1938.

Interview with Charley Venable.
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is Charley Venable. I was born November the 14th 1866, in the state of Virginia, seventy-two years ago. I came to the Indian Territory August the 7th, 1900.

The first place I landed was at Chickasha and I have lived here ever since. When I first landed here it was a very small place, nothing but a mud hole and all the buildings here were small wooden buildings.

Chickasha was known then as a cow town. There were lots of ranch land around Chickasha and lots of cattle. Chickasha was said to have the largest stock feeding pens in the United States.

The main water supply came from dug wells and the Washita River. The old town well that was used so much was located on North of First Street between the Chickasha Flour Mill and the Stephenson & Brown Lumber Company. The Washita River was used mostly for stock watering. I have

VENABLE, CHARLEY.

INTERVIEW.

308
10356

-2-

seen this river so low that you could jump across it any where you wanted to. Some as rich farming land as can be found lies up and down the Washita River. On account of the location of Chickasha, this town has been called the "Queen of the Washita". In 1900 corn was the crop raised, and it was sold for 10¢ a bushel.

Speaking of Chickasha being a mud hole, the 100 block on South 3rd Street, under the Early Hotel; used to be our fishing hole. I have caught catfish weighing two and three pounds in that hole. The post office then was located in a wooden building, built up on stilts. We used to tie our horses under this building.

There was plenty of wild game around Chickasha in 1900 such as deer, turkey, prairie chickens, and almost anything else you wanted wild.

The Rock Island Railroad was built through Chickasha between 1891 and 1899. This runs North and South. When the Rock Island Railroad shops were built in 1903, the company tried to dig down past the hard water and get artesian water, but when they did this, they struck so much

VENABLE, CHARLEY.

INTERVIEW.

10356.

-3-

oil and gas, they had to quit.

I have lived in Chickasha for thirty-eight years
and have been a railroader the biggest part of this time.