

WALKER, CHARLES L.

INTERVIEW

12802

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INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149) #12802

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

310

Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date) January 20, 1938

1. Name Chas. L. Walker

2. Post Office Address Cleveland

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1872

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father Jake Walker Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Anna Jacobs Place of birth Illinois

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 5

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Investigator,
Charles H. Holt,
January 20, 1938

Interview with Charles L. Walker,
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Charles L. Walker was born in Illinois in 1872; his parents moved to Kansas when he was a small boy and there he grew to manhood. In the year 1893, Charles and his father came to the Territory and made the Run. In registering for the Run at Stillwater they had a long tiresome experience, waiting in a massed line almost two days before getting admittance to register. Mr. Walker and Charles reached Stillwater the day before the registration started and Charles was first in line before daybreak at a door entrance, but after a long line had formed someone announced that they would not enter at the door where the line had formed and a mad rush was made to get to the correct place, and by so doing Charles lost his first place and was forced some distance down the line. He and his father stayed all day and not getting admittance slept in line that night. They would have someone hold the place while first one and then the other would get something to eat or a cup of coffee.

While in line that night a man had removed his saddle

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from his horse, and was sleeping in line on his saddle blanket and saddle with the horse tied with a rope to the horn of the saddle. The horse became frightened during the night and got the man tangled in the rope, and would probably have killed the man had someone not cut the rope.

Then it was only a few minutes until a team of mules hitched to a wagon ran away and came by the line of sleeping men and scattered them.

About all these men had to eat while waiting in line were watermelons. They found out later what caused the line to move so slowly. The soldiers on guard were taking people who would pay or tip them in ahead of the others. Charles Walker says he would not go through the experience again even if the same opportunity was to be had.

The Run was made from the north boundary of Creek County and Charles and his father only ran three quarters of a mile and staked adjoining claims near Terlton. There was nothing on either place in the way of living quarters, so a 12x14 log house was built on each claim and after finishing the houses Mr. Walker and Charles went back to Kansas for the rest of the family and for their belongings which included four or

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five horses and two wagons. Some farming tools were brought along such as breaking plows and harrows.

There was a spring on the place so no well was dug until this spring proved to have typhoid germs in it, then a well was dug. Almost all the Walker family had typhoid fever the first year and Charles was sick with it for eight or ten weeks and came near dying, but Dr. Waters of Cleveland pulled him through. While Charles was sick he thought that some of Dr. Waters' treatments were so severe that he told his folks that he would kill Dr. Waters when, or if he got well, but when he was well again he changed his mind.

Charles eventually lost his claim through a contest filed by an old man, but his father retained his claim. There was no school there but soon one was built of logs 30 x 30 feet on Mr. Walker's claim. This room was also used for church services. Charles recalls the names of two preachers who first preached in the building, one's name was Needham and the other's name was Moore. Later a larger school was built in a more central location and the old school building was sold to Mr. Walker for \$10.00.

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The mail was first gotten at Jennings until a post office was established at Terilton. On the 4th of July, 1894, a big picnic was held at Cleveland and of course Charles went and took his girl. There were a great many Osage Indians at the picnic and most all of them were trying to get something to drink. They were not allowed to buy over the Bar so a man at the picnic grounds had a cold drink stand and had for sale in a large bottle some kind of red cherry soft drink. The Indians saw this and bought almost all of this drink the man had and went over into the shade and drank it, and waited for the kick, but none came, so when the Indians came back by the stand the man tried to sell them some more of the red drink, but the Indians said "Nope, no good."

That night a big dance was held at the Dunlap Hotel which was not finished but where there was plenty of floor space for dancing and a great time was had by all who attended as they danced most all night. The markets were at Tulsa, Perry, and Elgin, Kansas.

On one occasion Charles was riding on horse-back to Tulsa, and he left the main road to water his horse at a

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spring a short way off the road and saw officers and outlaws at the spring drinking whiskey together. He was not bothered, and went on his way, and knew better than to tell anyone that he had seen the officers and outlaws drinking together.

Charles got married and farmed at a place near his father's place until the first oil boom, when he went working in the oil fields of the state. He held the claim until 1910 when he went back to live.