

WALLACE, GUY

INTERVIEWS

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WALLACE, GUY. INTERVIEW.

Jerome Emmons,
Field Worker.

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Form A-(S-149) 521
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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emmons.

This report made on (date) June 15, 1937

1. Name Guy Wallace

2. Post Office Address 1404 E. 6th Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Same.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1874.

5. Place of birth Arkansas.

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 6 pages

Jerome M. Emmons,
Field Worker.

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An Interview With Guy Wallace.

I moved to Thurman, in the Choctaw Nation, with my mother and brothers, from Arkansas, in 1887. I believe this was later Garvin County.

We put in 700 acres of corn, cotton, etc., for J. J. McAlester. We also fenced this property with nine wire fence and cleared land when not farming. Mr. McAlester ran a general store at what is now McAlester. I think this is still in existence, ^{though} now run by other people and maybe under another name.

Our first home was just a three room box house. We brought our furniture from Arkansas in a wagon. There were plenty of good springs for water. We used wood for fuel and was particular about what we burned, using only hard wood, such as ash, walnut and hickory. Black oak, cherry, and bois d' arc were used for fences.

All the crops had to be handled by hand as we had no machinery. Hay was plentiful and good pasture land available, so there were quite a few ranches.

At Thurman there was a store, postoffice, mill, cotton gin, and blacksmith shop. The store sold groceries, grain, flour and powder and shot. It also traded in fur and hides.

Schools.

The log school three miles away was only open six weeks in three years. A family had to pay to send children there, as a teacher had to be hired and the building maintained.

Food.

Our food was purchased at McAlester. Of course, we killed deer, turkeys, and wild hogs. I have killed as many as fifty quail and fifty prairie chickens in one day. Ducks were plentiful in the fall. We raised some chickens and turkeys for food.

Entertainment.

There were about ten families in Thurman. We would have many dances. We would sometimes go to the Indian stomp dances. I have played the Indian ball game. Later, I use to play base ball with 'Iron man' McGinty at Krebs. He was at one time a big league ball player.

Pottawatomie Country.

I made the run into the Pottawatomie Country when it was opened in 1890 or 1891. Some other boys and I decided to make the run. I took my horse, a blanket, feed for my horse, \$18.00, and a six-shooter. We were held up at the

line for a couple of days.

People were there on ponies, oxen, cows, wagons, sulkies, buggies and even race horses.

I had ridden enough to know what my pony could do. So when the crowd started, they passed me on all sides, trying to be the first one there. I just kept at a steady gait and when their stock began to tire of the swift pace, I passed them all.

I was the first one into Tecumseh and as I knew how the town was laid out, I filed or staked out a lot on Main Street. This was later the site of the Court House there. In three years the county seat was moved to Shawnee.

Creek Nation.

In 1896, we moved to Canadian and a year later moved to Checotah. Two years earlier I had seen my first electric light, at Muskogee. Shawnee, Ardmore and Muskogee were the largest towns in the Indian Territory. Shawnee was larger than Oklahoma City.

On July 5, 1900, I came to Okmulgee with Ernest Wilson, Hep Stanford and Harry Amburger in a two horse surrey.

I went to work for James Parkinson, whose store was located at what is now Morton and Seventh. I had had some business experience before in clothing stores.

I married in July, 1901. My wife formerly of Missouri, was then living in Vinita, Indian Territory.

In 1901-1902, I knew every Creek Councilman. I was acquainted with Chief Checote, Chief Porter, Isparhecher, and Alex Posey. Alex Posey, Creek Indian poet, I believe, had always lived at Eufaula.

In the council meeting one of these years, it looked like war one day. Frank Jones, United States Deputy Marshal, was called in to keep peace. They were really shooting and tearing things up that day.

When I moved here Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Morton, and Grand were about the only streets. The city was built around them.

The first bank was run by McLagen and Walter Sonders, in a two room frame house ^{where} Newberry's is now.

The Church sat in the middle of the street on Third between Seminole and Morton, as they are called now. This was just a community church and used by every denomination which could get someone to preach for them.

Bill Roberts ran a saddle shop, about where Anthony's is now. This is the middle of the north side of the first block east of the square on Main.

The Morton Brothers store was at Fifth and Morton streets.

Dr. Bell was about the only doctor and Dr. Hensley was a druggist. His store was first in a shack on Sixth between Grand and Central and later moved to a stone building farther east.

I build a three room cottage at Fifth and Seminole.

Stomp Dances.

The Creeks had stomp grounds at Arbeka, Cussetah and Fish pond (or baun)town. The last named was about one half a mile from the Choctaw line near the river. I used to dance at the Fish pond grounds. I attended a dance there in 1890.

United States Marshals.

Sid Johnson, later Chief of Police at Fort Smith, was the Marshal in 1890. He was on the train at Adair, in the Cherokee Nation, when the Dalton boys robbed it. He was the only one to get off the train to take a shot at them.

Railroads.

When I came to the Territory, the Katy was the only railroad here. In 1891 the Rock Island started thru the

Choctaw Nation. In 1904, when it crossed the Canadian River at Calvin, I was there.

Trading Posts.

Whitefield, Brooklyn, and Texanna were the most important trading posts in the Choctaw Nation, when I first moved there.

Cattle.

I was in one of the last big roundups of longhorn cattle. This was in the year 1898. We started the first of September and ended Christmas. This was on the Black River Ranch in southeastern New Mexico, just south of the Carlsbad Caverns. We ended up by driving the cattle to Amarillo, Texas, for shipment.

I have seen 10,000 cattle between here and Checotah, all Texas Longhorns. For years this was cow country, cattle, at least for the white man, being the main industry.

Circuit Rider.

I had an uncle, named Vent Wallace, who was a circuit rider in the Cherokee Country. He came with them to the Indian Territory about 1830, as a teacher and Methodist minister.

Guns.

The 38 and 44 Winchesters were the deer guns when I was a boy, the 45 Cal. single action Colt was the hip gun.