

WATERS, JOSE.

INTERVIEW 13207

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

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ATERS, MARY C. INTERVIEW

13207

Field Worker's name W. J. E. Higby,

This report made on (date) February 10, 1933 1933

1. Name George A. Aters,

2. Post Office Address Stilwell

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 7, Year 1880

5. Place of birth Illinois District, Cherokee Nation

6. Name of Father George A. Aters Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Mary C. Miller Place of birth Cherokee Nation.

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes or copy to 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Investigator, W. J. B. Bigby,  
February 10, 1938. "

Interview with Mose Waters,  
Stilwell,

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Mose Waters, the oldest son of George W. Waters, was born in the old Illinois District of the Cherokee Nation about the 7th of February, 1880. He was the son of George W. Waters and Mary C. Miller, both Cherokees. His father was an Old Settler and his mother was an emigrant.

The early life of Mose was mostly spent on the farm that his father operated a little north of where Vian is now in Sequoyah County. The family of Waters claimed a large farm in this community. They were a well-to-do family of Cherokees. They raised all of the food that the family consumed and stock was also handled to some extent. In this part of the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokees at this time did not farm on a large scale as they do in this county.

### School.

The Ross School was the first school in this part of the Cherokee Nation. This was located on Little Vian Creek several miles north of Vian. Charlotte Walker, a full blood Cherokee, was the teacher at this school for several years. Margie Walker also taught at this place. Mose finished this school and later attended the Male Seminary at Tahlequah. This was at that time the only institution of higher learning in the Cherokee Nation.

### Church.

Baptist revivals at the Ross schoolhouse were the only services that they attended. There were no established churches in the community.

### Politics.

George W. Waters was elected councilman for two terms from 1894-1899. He was elected from the Illinois District on the Downing ticket. Mose does not know much about the early-day politics.

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### Secret Societies.

The Night Hawks were the only secret society of Cherokees that Mose knows of. The leader in this district was Redbird Smith. Each year now the Night Hawks all over the Old Cherokee Nation celebrate the birthday of this great leader.

### Allotment and Railroads

These two great questions that created the most trouble among the Cherokees was oftentimes discussed by his father. The Waters family were in favor of allotment but were against the railroads.