

INDEX CARDS

Agencies--Sac and Fox

Sac and Fox Indians

Cemeteries--Sac and Fox

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

Field Worker's name Lenna M. RushingThis report made on (date) May 17, 19371. Name A. F. White2. Post Office Address Key West, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) Key West4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month X Day X Year 18865. Place of birth Kansas6. Name of Father X Place of birth X

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother X Place of birth X

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 _____.

Lenna M. Rushing
Field Worker
May 17, 1937

Interview with A. F. White
as given to Lenna M. Rushing,
field worker.

I came to Oklahoma with my parents when I was three years old. My father ran for a homestead in the Sac and Fox territory opening and secured a homestead tract near Carney.

My father was a farmer, and we raised lots of cotton. For a while the closest cotton gin was at Guthrie. Then my father heard that there was a cotton gin at the Sac and Fox Agency north of Stroud. He sent me alone with a load of cotton down to find out. That was my first trip to the Agency, but later I went frequently. The gin was located down near the old barn that still stands in the pasture across the road from the agency now (approximately a quarter of a mile from the road leading into the agency grounds).

There were stores at Stroud also, some near the gin and some between the agency and the school. Later when the town lots were bought they consolidated into a community down where the store is now at the corner. That was around forty years

ago.

The Agency was as pretty a place then as I had ever seen. There were the governmental employees' homes, and the office, and the Indians' homes farther up towards the creek. All these were well kept and painted. Blue grass and huge trees made the place green from earliest spring. Some of the Indians camped in tepees and tents along the creek banks, making the whole scene more picturesque. Some of the stores were occupied by Indians.

Behind the cotton gin about a quarter of a mile was an Indian village--over where the trees are now. There is supposed to be a graveyard * over there somewhere.

Money was plentiful in those days. Indians and white people alike had plenty. Some were afraid of bandits, and hid their gold in cans or pots and buried them.

*Note: I found the graveyard, but there are no marked graves, just mounds of earth.

3

I liked the Indians a lot and got along with them real well. I remember old man Chief Tohee very well. He was a great hunter and remained active until he died.

Near Fallis was an Iowa Indian village, when I first came to Oklahoma. In a few years it was moved to a site east of Perkins.