

WHITE, W. T.

INTERVIEW

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Investigator, Robert H. Boatman
November 10, 1937.

Interview with W. T. White
Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in Texas, September 2, 1868, and lived there until 1891, when I was twenty-three years old. At that time I came to the Indian Territory and settled in the Chickasaw Nation near the Red River and near where the town of Terra is now.

There were a good many Indians there; we knew them as blanket Indians. The women wore blankets and shawls and the men wore a breech clout and moccasins. The Chickasaw Indians were a very friendly tribe, but the Comanche country was only a short way west of us and the Comanche Indians were sure enough tough. They would come over from their country and steal everything they could get hold of and would sometimes kill a whole family and take their horses and cattle.

Once my aunt Lizzie Williams and family were taken by surprise by a band of the Comanches who ran in on them and shot my uncle fourteen times with arrows. After he was

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shot he got out of the house and crawled under the floor. The Indians then scalped my aunt and killed one child. They took two other children with them and set fire to the house. My uncle stayed as long as he could under the floor then ran to a haystack for protection. The Government bought back the two children from the Comanche Indians for \$500.00. This crime was committed south of Pauls Valley near the Washita River.

There were no roads, no bridges and all streams were forded. I began my life in the Territory as a cowpuncher, riding range and grazing herds across the Territory into Texas, then to Kansas City, Missouri. I have driven thousands of head of cattle through the Territory over the old Chisholm Trail, which came into the Territory from Texas, crossing the Red River at old Red River station known as the Fleetwood Crossing, a ford of Red River. From there it took a northeasterly course, crossing the Washita River three miles east of where the town of Chickasha now is. From there it went on by way of Tabler, then crossed the Canadian River at Silver City.

For a good many years I worked as a cowpuncher, then

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the development of the agricultural business began and I began my career as a farmer with a yoke of oxen, a Georgia stock and a double shovel - an abundant crop was raised from a small acreage.

People never thought of building barns to store their corn; it was just harvested and ricked, then was usually sold to some ranchman to feed to cattle at a price ranging from 12¢ to 15¢ per bushel.

I was very successful in the agricultural business as the country developed with all modern tools and machines, and later retired from active service and now live in the town of Blanchard in the northern part of McClain County.