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Field worker; Jennie Selfridge.  
April 13, 1937.

BIOGRAPHY OF: Mr. Jake Earnest Williams (White)  
209 First Street, Southwest.  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

BORN: Falcon, Tennessee.  
June 1, 1883.

PARENTS: Father, Joseph F. Williams, Mississippi.  
Operated one of the first wholesale  
and retail groceries in Ardmore.  
Mother, Eliza Jane Parks, Mississippi.

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My father moved from Tennessee to Ardmore, Indian Territory  
in 1889 .

There were no public schools in Ardmore at that time.

Maggie A. Barry conducted a private school, and was my  
first teacher. She had been a teacher in the Agricultural  
and Mechanical College of Texas for twenty years. I also  
attended Henry Kendall College at Muskogee, and later  
attended Business College at Gainesville, Texas.

In 1902 a large number of Mississippé Choctaws were  
moved to Ardmore from Mississippi by Hudson and Arnold.

They were placed in some vacant buildings east of the Santa  
Fe Tracks. These buildings were poorly ventilated, had no  
light or sanitary facilities, and the Indians died like rats.

The Indians did not get enough to eat, and in their  
half-starved condition contracted pneumonia and tuberculosis.

They were just ordinary tenant farmers, trust-worthy, sober

and peaceful, although after spending a few months around Ardmore they became shiftless, and began drinking anything they could get that would make them drunk.

These Indians were promised three hundred sixty acres of land in the Choctaw or Chickasaw Nation if they would make this move. It has been said that Hudson and Arnold signed contracts with the Mississippi Choctaws; in which these Indians promised them a certain amount of the allotment they would receive after arriving here.

The Supplemental Treaty of 1898 gave these Indians a right to settle in the Chickasaw Nation. The Choctaws and Chickasaws held a special court at Tishomingo, in regard to these Indians. The Chickasaw land office was located at Tishomingo, I believe I would be safe in saying that ninety five per cent of these Indians settled around Ardmore.

The Yarbough, Willis, Ned, and many other Choctaw families of Ardmore, settled here in 1902.

In 1907 I moved to Cornish in what is now Jefferson County. Just west of Cornish was the Bill

Washington ranch, which consisted of one hundred fifty thousand acres of land. Most of this land had been allotted by the Indians, although Washington and his men put up a fight to keep them out. The Indians would move in and stretch a tent, or build a little shack. Washington's men would go at night, bundle up their belongings, hog-tie them; carry them to the edge of the pasture and throw them out. By 1911 some of the allotments were sold, and a little after this time Bill Washington took his outfit and moved to New Mexico.

My father was in the wholesale and retail grocery business with J. R. Pennington at Ardmore.

Our water supply were three large cisterns located up and down Main street, which filled up with water every time it rained.

The side walks were all built on a different level, and the buildings were located very irregular. After the fire of 1895, the town was rebuilt and the fronts of the buildings made uniform. During this fire three blocks of buildings burned. A few houses were left standing on the south side of the street.

I was admitted to the bar in 1917, and have been engaged in the practice of law since.

FIELD WORKER NOTE.

I did well to secure this much information from Mr. Williams. We were interrupted by his clients three times during the interview, also he was planning the Golden Jubilee celebration for Ardmore, and working trying to get the Federal Judgeship appointment.