

WILLIAMS, C. D.

INTERVIEW

1845

176

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

WILLIAMS, C. D.

INTERVIEW.

1346.

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.

This report made on (date) April 15, 1937. 1937

1. Name C. D. Williams.

2. Post Office Address Granite, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Five miles north and two east.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1874.

5. Place of birth Breckenridge, Stephens County, Texas.

6. Name of Father Keel Williams. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father Born in 1838.

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 4.

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Ethel B. Tackitt,  
Field Worker,  
April 15, 1937.

An Interview With C. D. Williams,  
Granite, Oklahoma.

I was born near Breckearidge, Stephens County, Texas, in 1874. The country was beginning to settle with white people and the Indians had been moved away but I heard many accounts of the early conflicts from my father and other pioneers who had lived through those early days. I, with other members of my father's family, moved from San Saba County, Texas, to Oklahoma in 1892. I went to a place where the town of Foss is now located and it was there that the occurrence took place which I will relate. My cousin, Ed Williams, had a claim there and a stranger came into the community who told Ed that a battle between Custer's men and the Indians had taken place near there and that a rifle, bullet molds, some ammunition and powder can had been buried. Grundy Williams went with him on the day of December 1, 1892, one and one-half miles southwest of where Foss is located, on Turkey Creek. They dug into what appeared to be a mound and found the articles

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as described. This man also told them that Custer's horses were killed and buried about the middle of the townsite. They dug there and found the horses bones as described. I saw the bones and "Dock" Jones who is now living at Dill City helped to get the bones. This strange man just would not talk. So we never knew who he was or where he came from. The place where the rifle, bullet molds, etc., were found was at Foss and there is the circular structure of which I spoke in my questionnaire similar to the structure mentioned as being located in Section 5, Township 6 North, Range 20 East, in N $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{2}$  Greer County. These seem to have been trenches dug in the ground some thirty or forty feet across the circle formed by them, the dirt having been thrown to the center forming a mound which served as protection from the foe who were charging them. If this foe succeeded in getting inside this ditch, they could retreat round this circle and thereby perhaps save themselves from the enemy. These structures have all been leveled by time and the farmers who owned the land have plowed over them until it is impossible to locate them

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unless one knows exactly where they are. I have plowed up many arrow heads, an old gun and many other articles, as I worked my farm which is located in the valley of North Fork River. Some of these articles have been taken by my children to the school at Weatherford. I filed on my home place in 1897 and have lived on it ever since.

In the early days I freighted from Vernon and also Quanah, Texas, to Mangum. One time a rise came down Red River and we were tied up there fourteen days. My cousin, Grundy Williams, grated corn so that eleven families might have bread, for nine days. He kept busy; this was in July of 1895. During one of these rises on North Fork, Grundy Williams was down at the river and he and his horse fell in. In the struggle the horse took him out on the Indian Territory side and the current was so swift that he thought best not to swim back, as we had to go over anyway to look after the cattle to keep the Indians from running them all off. So he just stayed over there for six days with nothing to eat except what we could throw across the river.

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I knew Lone Wolf and many other Indians quite well. In 1893 or 1894 a friend of mine, a white man of the name of Hubert Bread, had a quarrel with an Indian over a horse, near the mouth of Quartermaster Creek and the Indian killed this man and set fire to the grass which burned his body but not so that he could not be recognized. The whites gathered to settle with the Indians but just about the time we were ready to charge, the soldiers arrived from Fort Sill and took charge of the Indians. We went back home but for some time we feared that the Indians might rise against the whites. I could tell of many ups and downs and hard times but I have a fine farm and nowhere else would be home but if we don't get some rain and stop this sand from blowing I don't know what we are going to do.