

WINTERS, CHARLIE LEE. INTERVIEW 9284

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

WINTERS, CHARLIE LEE.

INTERVIEW.

9284.

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt, S

This report made on (date) November 9, 1937. 1937

1. Name Charlie Lee Winters.

2. Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Route #3.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February. Day 22. Year 1883.

5. Place of birth Four miles southwest of Wynnewood.
In the Chickasaw Nation

6. Name of Father John William Winters. Place of birth Missouri

7. Name of Mother Sarah Howard Winters. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother Typical Pioneer Woman.

Father came to the Chickasaw Nation when he was very young.

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 _____

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Ethel B. Tackitt,
Investigator,
Nov. 9, 1937.

Interview With Charlie Lee Winters,
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

I was born near four miles southwest of Wynnewood on the Washita River, now in Garvin County. It was then the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory.

My father, John William Winters, was a native of Missouri but came to the Nation when quite young and my mother, Sarah Francis Howard Winters, was also born in Missouri but moved here with her parents in 1875.

We lived in a log house and there were very few white neighbors but we always got on quite well with the Indians.

The fences around the land which my father leased and farmed were built of brush and rails and across a little creek on our farm was built a fence of poles. Then during one of the big rises on the Washita the water backed up this little creek and when it went down it left a great quantity of mud settled back quite a way and down in

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the creek were left numbers of fish caught behind the pole fence, which were too large to get out between the poles. Mother and a neighbor lady, Mrs. Ice, took us children and went down to walk by the river one afternoon. There were few places to go and rambling among the big trees, vines and flowers was a pastime which everybody enjoyed in those days. There were always wild turkeys and birds, as well as squirrels and many small wild animals to be seen and there were grapes and plums to be gathered in the summer and walnuts and pecans to be found in the winter.

When we came to this place where the pole fence had caught the school of fish we began to think of catching some of them with our hands but the mud bank extended quite a way back. Mother stepped out on the bank, thinking that it was firm, but it was not and both feet slipped from under her and she went into the hole of water, which was almost thick mud and came clear up under her arms.

We children were frightened and began to scream but Mother was not at all alarmed and said, as she was into the mud up to her neck, she would catch the big fish we

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could see; so she began to wade around and chase the largest one. We all helped her and at last we worried it down and dragged it out of the water. It was the largest scaly fish I have ever seen come out of Washita River; it was more than four feet long. They put a long stick in its gills and, with the assistance of my brother who was ten years old and the Ice boy of about the same age; we took it home to show everybody how much fun we had had that afternoon and nobody minded the mud.

In the Spring of 1889, my parents decided that we children were growing up and that we should have land of our own on which to build a home, so they moved to old Greer County. We went across the Territory in a covered wagon and settled in White Oak Hollow, directly south of the mouth of Devil's Canyon which is on the Kiowa side of North Fork of Red River. We were located just one mile south but on the Greer County side.

I remember stopping on our claim quite well. There was not a house in sight and we stretched our tent, April 19, 1889, and had hardly made camp when a wind and rain

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storm came up and blew our tent down and drenched everything we had.

I, with my brothers, soon began to ramble over the place and we found many articles such as arrowheads, beads and things showing that an Indian encampment had been located there at a date long past. Later we began to find bones of both Indians and whites; Indian bones were of a darker color than those of whites. One day I brought a skull of a white person to the house and put it up on a pole but Mother made me dispose of it at once. The desire to know what had been located in this region grew with me and I hunted for relics everywhere I went and collected them, wondering where they came from.

When the Kiowa country was opened in 1901, my brother Tom Winters, homesteaded Section 12, Township 4, Range 20, which lies in the mouth of Devil's Canyon, where it comes down to North Fork of Red River. We had spent many days exploring the canyon when it was Kiowa territory and we continued to do so.

I was married in 1906 and purchased the claim from brother Tom, and my wife and I moved there and began to

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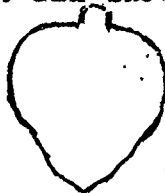
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build a home. I told her all I knew about the canyon and of the relics we had found and she was as deeply interested as I was. We have picked up everything in the way of bones, buttons, beads, cartridge shells and some articles we cannot name and we have studied everything available to us and find that a Spanish village was located slightly to the west of our house and a little north at the foot of Flat-Top Mountain of the Wichita Range.

After every rain we always find some new article which has been uncovered and the last of these were two small hearts which my wife found while sweeping the yard about two months ago. The largest of these hearts looks to be made of brass and the Lord's Prayer printed in English on one side; the other side is plain but all show much wear.

This is an outline of it:



The other heart is smaller and looks to be made of copper, and as though it had been broken off of something. It has the head of a young man in uniform on one side and another object, which should be brought out before named.

This is the outline of it:



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The value of these two hearts is not known as they have not been examined by any person in position to render an opinion.

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