

HOUSE, MILLARD.

INTERVIEW

12803

277

- 8 -

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

HOUSE, MILLARD

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Field Worker's name Charles H. HoltThis report made on (date) January 21 19381. Name Millard (Bud) House2. Post Office Address Cleveland

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 16 Year 18735. Place of birth Kentucky6. Name of Father Henry House Place of birth Kentucky7. Name of Mother Lucy Brown Place of birth Kentucky

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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Charles H. Holt,
Investigator,
January 21, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Millard (Bud) House,
Cleveland, Oklahoma.

Millard (Bud) House was born in Kentucky in 1873; his parents moved to Arkansas in the late '70's, but in 1885 moved from Arkansas to the Territory and settled in the Choctaw country near Poteau at a place which was then known as Poteau Switch.

The father was an experienced timber man, and he and a man of the name of J. W. Cooper took a job of cutting logs and rafting them to a mill at Fort Smith, and Mr. House kept up this work at Poteau Switch for seven years.

The trip from Arkansas was made by ox team and wagon and on arriving near Poteau Switch, a small tract of land was leased from a full blood Choctaw Indian of the name of Israel Huentobie. There was a double log house on the tract of land and fifteen acres were ready for cultivation. The father, Mr. House, went ahead with his logging, and the rest of the family cultivated these fifteen acres of land, raising corn on all the land except a garden patch. It took

HOUSE, MILLARD

INTERVIEW

12803

- 2 -

a great deal of corn for the three yoke of oxen used in logging and corn had to be bought when the corn they had raised had been fed up. They paid from 50 cents to \$1.00 per bushel for the corn which they bought.

The logs were mostly cut on Sugar Creek and were mostly Walnut, Cedar and Cherry, although some Oak logs were cut. The logs were hauled to the Arkansas River at the nearest point and were arranged on seventy-five to a hundred foot rafts and floated to Fort Smith. Cooper and House kept twenty-four men for their logging operations.

At one time the river got very high and the rafts had to be watched very closely as they would be stolen. A large rowboat was used to follow and guide the rafts, and one time the river got so high that great loss and damage was caused to the surrounding country and many heads of livestock were drowned. In following and guiding the log rafts the carcasses of many hogs, cattle and other stock could be seen floating in the water or lodged in tree tops as the water was up over some of the trees. The House family lost some cattle and hogs in the flood. The Indians had so many wild hogs in the river bottom that no estimate

HOUSE, MILLARD

INTERVIEW

12803

- 3 -

could be made of the hogs which they lost.

The main road that passed where the House family lived crossed Sugar Creek, but the creek made an S at the crossing point, and it had to be crossed three times before getting onto the other side.

The trading place nearest the place where the House family lived was Gibson, Arkansas, ten miles away where they got their mail. Then Beard's store was ten miles away but it was in the Territory, and seven miles away was the McClure place. McClure was part Choctaw Indian, and wealthy; he had a store, a grist mill, and baled great quantities of hay. He had a hay shed that covered almost two acres of land. He did a great business and drew trade from the surrounding country.

Mr. McClure had two sons who were doctors, Tony and Jack were their names, but one of them committed suicide and the other fell on a rock and died as a result.

There was a "whipping post" at the McClure farm, but only one man was whipped at the post while the House family lived near. A man had stolen horses for which theft he was whipped at the McClure whipping post. There was no school

HOUSE, MILLARD

INTERVIEW

12803

- 4 -

or church in the community. After the McClure boys died Dr. Ross was the community doctor.

Mr. House made the Run when the Strip opened in 1893, but did not stake a claim and returned to Poteau and the same year moved to Cleveland. The trip to Cleveland was made with the same yoke of oxen that he brought from Arkansas. He camped in a tent at first at Cleveland then went to hauling wood with the oxen for 25 cents per rick, and Millard House began tending bar for George Collins' saloon in Cleveland. The father died several years ago at Cleveland, and Millard is in the restaurant business in Cleveland at present.