

MILLER, A. J.

INTERVIEW

4201

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

MILLER, A. J. INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) May 25, 1937

1. Name A. J. Miller

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 203 South Boone

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 20, Year 1862

5.. Place of birth Mississippi

6. Name of Father A. J. Miller Place of birth Alabama

7. Name of Mother Nancy Elizabeth Miller Place of birth Alabama

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 _____.

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Field Worker,, Ethel Mae Yates,
May 25, 1937.

Interview with A. J. Miller,
203 South Boone,
Elk City, Oklahoma.

My father fought in the Civil war. He would come home every now and then to see about the crops. I don't remember about his ever fighting in but one battle and that was the battle called the Cross-Road battle.

I have been along there and seen where they had shot the tops out of trees with cannon. There was a large two-story house which was used for a soldier's hospital which was shot full of holes.

There is a large cemetery where mostly soldiers are buried. They would dig holes and just pile the soldiers in and cover them so shallow that after a rain they would have to take a maul and pack the dirt down.

The soldiers were mostly negroes. The Yankees made the negroes think that the war would end right there.

My father was wounded about the year of '64 and did not go back to war any more.

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My mother had a hard time trying to provide for us children as there were soldiers on the border at that time and it was hard to get across the line; my mother would run a blockade to get food for us children.

My mother bought a bright, brown silk dress in the year of 1863, which she wore and all of her daughters and grand daughters wore it. My sister, who is eighty-four years old, and who lives in Coleman City, Texas, now has this dress and it does not have a hole in it.

In 1845 or 1850 a battle was fought at the North Fork of Red River between the Spaniards and Indians. The Spaniards had been back East to pilfer and rob and had fifty burros loaded with gold. They had been fighting on the run all day, when the battle took place in a circle with the lands that circled back from Red River after the fight. Mr. John Wilson went to an Indian and asked him what he was doing there. This Indian who could talk English showed Mr. Wilson the tree that he stood behind when the battle was fought and he said every Spaniard was killed but one and he didn't

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know whether he was or not for he was never seen again.

That gold is supposed to be there yet, as it has never

been found. (North corner of Kiowa County). This tree,

still standing, is cottonwood and not very tall.

Note: Attached to the original copy of this manuscript is a newspaper picture of Mr. A. J. Miller and his sister who is wearing a dress bought by her Mother in 1863.