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Field Worker: Thad Smith Jr.
April 15, 1937

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BIOGRAPHY OF: Will G. Carter (Negro)
607 S. Second St.
Chickasha, Oklahoma

BORN: October 19, 1874 in Texas

PARENTS: W. H. Carter, Mississippi

My mother, father and I came to Oklahoma City in 1891 when I was seventeen years old. My father did a little odd jobs with his wagon and team while I worked in a livery stable. Later that year we moved near Minco, and heard that there was to be an Indian Mission built forty miles northwest of there, for the Cheyennes and Arapahos. Because we had two teams we were given a job there.

I started from Minco with five white men who were going to help build the mission. I started to ford the Canadian River just north of Minco, and I had two teams hitched to my wagon. They got bogged down in quick-sand and I had to take them loose from the wagon to get them out. The next day, I went back after my wagon.

We burned clay for the bricks that were the foundation. Late in November I helped freight the lumber from Minco that was to finish the building. After this job was over, my father and I freighted cord wood to Fort Sill and sold it.

In the spring of 1892 we came back to Minco, and I got a job hauling cross-ties to help build the Rock Island railroad to Chickasha. When that was completed I got a job hauling supplies to the railroad graders, south of Chickasha. That same year I got a job on a cow ranch near Addington,

working for Bud Gregor, until in January of 1893. 253

I left there and went to Amarillo, Texas, and stayed there until March 1897, then came back to Chickasha and married in 1898.

In 1891 when I was helping to build the Cheyenne, Arapaho Mission it was their custom to live in tepees in little villages, maybe thirty or forty in a place. They drew their rations at Darlington.

None of the different tribes of Indians that I knew, except the Caddos, ever did any gardening although they did lots of hunting and fishing. There was lots of wild game in Oklahoma at that time.

In 1901 when the Caddo, Kiowa, and Comanche country was opened, I went to El Reno to register for the drawing. There was a line of people there at least a half a mile long, I waited in line over a half a day. There were men come along the line selling water for ten cents a drink, and sandwiches for fifteen cents.

After staying in line so long, I got registered but failed to draw a claim.

THE END