

MILLER, W. S.

INTERVIEW

#8257

289

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8257.

290

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Lillian Cassaway

This report made on (date) August 16 1937

1. Name W. S. Miller

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 219 West Central Boulevard

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 27 Year 1881

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father Jesse Miller Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Chase Miller 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.

MILLER, W. S.

INTERVIEW.

8257.

Lillian Cassaway, interviewer,
August 16, 1937

Baptist Orphan Home.

The Missionary Baptist Orphan Home, located three and a half miles north and east of Fort Cobb on old No. 9 Highway, was organized in 1917 in Lone Grove in Carter County.

The Messengers from some fifty Missionary Baptist Churches that believed in local self government for each particular Baptist Church but who believed in co-operation in benevolent work with each other met in Chickasha, September 10th, 1937, and decided by vote of the messengers present to establish an Orphan's Home, where friendless, helpless orphan children could be given the atmosphere and influence of a christian citizen.

A grand old man, commonly known as Father Butt, was elected the first Superintendent. The Home was established in Lone Grove and prospered for some three years at which time it was felt by the trustees that there was a need to expand because of the limited

MILLER, W. S.

INTERVIEW.

8257

2

capacity of the Home.

In 1920, Elder A. Nunnery, taking a leading part in work for the orphans, was successful in contracting for the purchase of a lovely fourteen room house and five blocks of land near the Women's College in Chickasha, and the Home prospered under his work as Superintendent for a number of years. More children were taken. A number of fine boys and girls who were raised in the Home went out prepared for life. While the Orphans' Home was located in Chickasha, the citizens of Chickasha were proud of it and contributed liberally to its support.

About the year 1927, the Messengers of the Churches again saw the need of expansion; the Reverend G. W. Whitfield was elected Superintendent, and authorized to trade the property in Chickasha for a farm ^{and the farm} ~~at~~ the present location of the Orphans' Home was traded for. ^{on the farm} And since the Home was located ~~near~~ Fort Cobb in Caddo

MILLER, W. S.

INTERVIEW.

8257.

3

County ~~to the fact~~ it has been one of the most successful Orphans' Home in the State of Oklahoma.

Until the terrible drouths in 1934-1936, with the land owned by the churches of Oklahoma Missionary Baptist Assembly and with the volunteer contributions from the churches the home prospered and was never known to ask for ~~outside~~ aid from any outside source until 1934.

Since 1937, excepting for a short period, Mr. S. J. Hooker, a layman, has been the much beloved and successful Superintendent.

In the year of 1934, owing to the entire loss of crops and the depression, the home began to be in a distressed condition. Several heavy debts were pressing and on November 12th, 1934, it was decided to put a man in the field to raise money for debts, and for food and clothing for the children, numbering at that

MILLER, W. S.

INTERVIEW.

8257.

4

time twenty-four boys and girls.

Elder W. S. Miller of Anadarko, was elected Chairman of the trustees of the Orphans' Home and General Field man and the Lord blessed his work. He was enabled to lift a pressing mortgage, pay other debts and to enable the home to live on cash without going in debt. The citizens of Anadarko and all of Caddo County have been very liberal in their support of this Orphans' home.

This manuscript was donated by W. S. Miller, who is Chairman of the Trustees of the Orphans' Home. He lives in Anadarko.