

CHILDRESS, S. W.

INTERVIEW

4616

430

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

CHILDRESS, S. W.

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Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse

This report made on (date) June 23 1937

1. Name S.W. Childress

2. Post Office Address Walters, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1857

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ 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 _____.

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Warren D. Morse,
Field Worker,
June 23, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. S.W. Childress,
Walters, Oklahoma.

I came into Oklahoma Territory in 1901 and started the first school in the flat just north of the present townsite of Walters. Mr. Mann was the first school teacher but in 1902 a flood came and backed water up into the houses so they built a new brick schoolhouse in the south part of town.

The first townsite was named McKnight after the claim agent at Lawton but we couldn't get mail through under that name so had to change it, so twelve men formed a commission, put a claim through and formed the new town of Walters, named after a member of the commission. They named me as surveyor.

Once a crowd of Spaniards came to a place which is now called Elm Springs. Suggs killed all the Spaniards except one Mexican, who escaped. He had a map of the place and years later returned to the William place and asked where a certain Mexican could be located and said there was some gold buried near the corral. They went out to the place, dug

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down and found several triangles pointing in different directions.

The map called for Elm Springs instead of Barefoot Springs but they thought the place was Barefoot Springs. When Suggs killed all these Mexicans and Spaniards, they burned all their camp supplies and wagons.