

CHICO, MARTIN

INTERVIEW

#12598

393

CHICO, MARTIN.

INTERVIEW  
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149)

12598

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

394

Field Worker's name Johnson Hampton

This report made on (date) January 4th 1938

1. Name Mr. Martin Chico, A Full Blood

2. Post Office Address Antlers, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 25th Year 1871

5. Place of birth Near Colbert, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father Charlie Chico Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Kathryn Perry Place of birth Mississippi

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.

Johnson Hampton  
Investigator.  
1-5th-1938

Interview with Mr. Martin Chico ( Full Blood )  
Antlers, Oklahoma.

I was born September 25th, 1871, near what was known as Colbert Station at that time, I think that they have cut out the station and are now calling it Colbert; it is on the M. K. & T. railroad. My father's name was Charlie Chico. He was a Chickasaw Indian, and my mother's name was Kathryn Perry and she was a Choctaw Indian. I have been told that my father was from Mississippi and that he came over here when he was just a boy.

They tell me that he served in the Civil War, and after he came from the war he worked in some tan yard until he was married to my mother. He then moved to Colbert Station where I was born and raised.

My mother was born and raised near what is now Hugo, but at that time there was no Hugo, or any other town nor any railroad; the Frisco main line has been built since she left there.

When I was a boy we had a pretty good sized farm where we raised corn and wheat; we did not raise any cotton at all on our farm; we had lots of cattle, hogs and ponies, that ran out on the range. The country at that time was

open, there were no wire fences and very few farms. There were some ranches there.

Our trading point at that time was at Red River City on the banks of Red River, it was a small village and there were some stores at this place where we traded and most of the people who lived there traded at this place. Red River City was then moved and was located where Denison, Texas is now and the name was changed to Denison from Red River City.

There were not many Indians in this country around Colbert. This was prairie country so the Indians lived out in the timber out on the edge of the prairie, and back out in the woods so they would be out of the north high winds that came through there every winter, and at that time it was very cold during the winter.

There were not many white people who lived there; it was mostly cow country at that time, but the white people who lived on the farms were good white people, but after while some "rustlers" came in there and we had trouble with them for all they came in there for was to steal and they surely did steal for a while.

My mother had a spinning wheel and a loom which she used to make clothes, pants and mittens and she

used to make gloves out of buckskins; she would make the clothes and pants and dye them with leaves, barks and roots and she would dye the mittens, too.

I was enrolled by the Dawes Commission some time in 1898 at Atoka, when they were down in this country enrolling the Choctaw people, and I selected my land at Atoka some time after I was enrolled. I participated in the payment of 1893, and the payments that were made after that time; we had several payments since that 1893 payment but have not got any payments recently.

Colbert would be called a cowtown; at that time there used to be lots of cattle in that country, and most of them were shipped out from that town which was a small station at that time. They used to ship cattle out of Colbert to Kansas City for it was a straight line on the railroad to Kansas City.

I am a part Chickasaw Indian, for my father was a Chickasaw and my mother was a full blood Choctaw and after Father married Mother he did not go back to his country but lived among the Choctaws with whom he was intermarried, and lived among them until he died.

4

I went to school for a while in a neighborhood school; I learned to read and write and speak English and I have been among the white people until I am not able to speak nor read nor write in my own language.

NOTE: Johnson-Hampton, an Indian, writes a typical Indian manuscript and very little change is made by the editors. -Ed