

CLARK, HALE COLUMBUS.

INTERVIEW

#8062

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Ethel E. PalmerThis report made on (date) July 26, 1937

1. Name Hale Columbus Clark
2. Post Office Address Putnam, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) _____
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1871
5. Place of birth Rockwall County, Texas

6. Name of Father Christopher Columbus Clark Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Died when I was a small child

7. Name of Mother Susan Clark Place of birth Virginia

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

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Interview with Hale Columbus Clark
Putnam, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Ethel E. Palmer
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 26, 1937

I came to Oklahoma*in the Fall of 1890, from Wise County, Texas, in a wagon drawn by horses. I came to a place near the place where Madill is now, in the Chickasaw Nation. Most of that country had log houses made of native cottonwood logs. My first year I did not have a home because I worked out nearly all the time. I worked six days a week at \$15.00 per month. All the people in that neighborhood leased land from the Indians. I picked cotton for 50 cents a hundred pounds; I could pick 250 pounds in a day. The main crops were oats, corn, cotton, sorghum and some wheat. Wheat sold on an average from 50 or 60 cents per bushel and cotton sold at from 4 to 8 cents per pound. During the eight years that I lived in Marshall County all the farming tools we had were walking plows, Georgia stocks and double shovels.

Ardmore was our closest trading point, post-office and railroad town and we were twenty-five miles from

Ardmore. There were no churches at this time, but there was one school-house close by, and it was called the Dogtown School Building.

I helped to round-up one bunch of wild horses. If our good horses would get with the wild ones we could hardly catch them. The way we would catch our horses was to build a pen, run them in there and catch them. I was in a round-up when we caught two horses. These wild horses were very smart and hard to catch.

This was a cattle country; a fat cow would sell all the way from \$8.00 to \$12.00 and there were also many hogs. People raised hogs for meat and for money too as they would get from 3 to 5 cents a pound for a hog. There were deer there, also turkey and a few panthers. We raised garden vegetables, too, and would sell eggs for 10 cents a dozen; we never did sell cream, but we would sell butter for 15 cents a pound. Our principal food was meat and bread.

There were many Indians here, Choctaws and Chickasaws. They were nice Indians, better than many of the white people because so many of the whites were outlaws and

were out to seek homes and money. The white men married into the Indian tribes so as to get rights to the Indian land. These Indians were very business like people.

For amusement we went to dances and danced to the music of a fiddle and sometimes to that of a banjo but we knew nothing about the "waist swing"-it was a "hand swing." The floors were made from native cottonwood and were very very rough.

When a fellow would go to see his girl he would go on horseback and would take an extra horse and a side saddle for her to ride.

* Indian Territory.