

COOPER, HENRY L.

INTERVIEW

8675

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

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.This report made on (date) September 28, 1937. 19371. Name Henry L. Cooper.2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma (Grady County).3. Residence address (or location) Chickasha, Oklahoma, 1202 South4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 19 Year 1884.
4th Street.5. Place of birth Texas.6. Name of Father Lee Cooper. Place of birth Texas.Other information about father Died at 30.7. Name of Mother Erma Shaffer. Place of birth Mississippi.Other information about mother Age 94 still living.

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 3.

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Jasper H. Mead,
Interviewer.
Sept. 28, 1937.

An Interview With Henry Cooper,
1202 South 4th Street,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is Henry L. Cooper I was born March 19, 1884 in the state of Texas and I first came to the Territory when I was three years old and the first place we landed was at Dibble. We lived there for a short while, and when I was seven years old we lived at a place named Ninnekah. This name was given to the place by the Rock Island Railroad Company. There was at one time a railroad camp at Ninnekah. At that time there was no farming around Ninnekah; it was all open country and ranch land.

Mr. George Bealer owned the ranch east of Ninnekah which had thousands of acres of land in it and was covered with native grass which would reach hip high on a tall man; there were also thousands of head of cattle which roamed over this ranch. All the work in those days consisted of ranch work which paid \$30.00 per month with board and room.

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This man Mr. George Beeler now has the agency for Dodge automobiles in Chickasha.

The old Chisholm Trail passed about three miles east of Ninnekah on its way north through Tuttle and on into Kansas City and in 1891 about the time we landed at Ninnekah the Rock Island Railroad Company was completing its road from Kansas City to Fort Worth, Texas, and after this was done, there was no more need for the old Chisholm Trail.

The main water supply came from dug wells and springs; most of these wells were shallow and were left just as they had been dug; some of them though were cased up on the inside with native stone and almost all of these wells had two wooden buckets in them. One bucket was kept full of water ready to be drawn up to the top at any time while the other bucket then would go to the bottom of the well and be filled.

There was an old one roomed plank house which was used for a school and church house, school generally lasted three months out of a year. Just once in a great while when some preacher would pass through the

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country, we would have a little preaching and church services but there never was more than a handful of people at any time at any of these services.

The country around Minnekaah is practically prairie land as far as you can see, with the exception of a few creeks and draws .

I have followed farming for several years, but have worked for the Rock Island Railroad Company for any number of years and I now live in Chickasha.