

MORE, JESS T.

INTERVIEW

#4545

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) June twenty-third 195 7

1. Name Jess T. More.

2. Post Office Address _____

3. Residence address (or location) Elk City, Oklahoma

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 16 Year 1850

5. Place of birth Wilson County, Tennessee.

6. Name of Father G. W. More Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Louiza More. Place of birth Tennessee

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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Field Worker Ethel Mae Yates
6- 21 - 1937.

Interview with Jess T. More
Elk City, Oklahoma.

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I was born in Tennessee in 1850 and raised on a farm. Later my father got tired of farming and went into the sawmill business and then he lost all he had.

I went to Hood County, Texas, in 1874 and lived there until 1898 and then moved to the Indian Territory. We forded the Red river. We came in covered wagons and camped out at nights and it took us three days to make the trip. We settled on a farm near a little trading post that was called Oakdale. Cloud Chief was the county seat at that time. We lived in what was then called the strip that joined Washita county. We lived in a cottonwood house and it was so cold that winter that we almost froze to death. We lived there one year and then moved to Roger Mills County two miles west of Cheyenne and rented a place to live on that had been the old battle ground.

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We lived in a half dugout and built one room in front of it. This was then on the bank of the Washita river; that was before it had changed its course.

We used water from the river; there was plenty of well water but it was so guppy that no one could drink it. This place joined Mr. John Sayler's place; he was then an old settler there.

There was not much land in cultivation. We would plant feed and sell it to the stockmen; they would turn their stock in and use it for stalk field grazing.

The children would go out on the battle field and hunt for relics and would find such things as beads and arrow points.

It was on the north corner of that place that a man's skeleton was found a few years ago that was

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supposed to be Black Kettle's bones. Black Kettle was chief at the time of the Cheyenne battle and he never was seen any more so they just supposed that he was killed then.

Cheyenne was then called Cheyenne City and I was looking forward to the time when I could see it. I never will forget the time that we drove up on the hill and looked down on the little plank court house; but we really enjoyed living out there anyway. We would go down on the river and gather grapes and plums.

Our cribs, barn and hen houses were made of willow brush covered with hay. I have sold lots of corn out of that old willow brush crib for \$1.00 per bushel.