

DILLARD, LEE HAMILTON

INTERVIEW #12496 **366**

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

Field Worker's name Joe Southern

This report made on (date) Dec. 23, 1937

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1. Name Lee Hamilton Dillard
2. Post Office Address Atoka, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 14 Year 1862
5. Place of birth Southern Mississippi

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6. Name of Father Hamilton Dillard Place of birth Carolina  
Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name of Mother Elizabeth LeFlore Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_
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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 6.

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Joe Southern  
Investigator  
12-23-37

BRIEF HISTORY OF LIFE OF  
JOSIAH HAMILTON DILLARD.

Foremost among the men who have made history in the town of New Wilson, and one of the pioneer business men of the city is Josiah Hamilton Dillard, who has been identified with Oklahoma and its progress since the years before statehood. He has seen many changes in the district now known as Oklahoma. The rule of the Five Civilized tribes has given way to the white man's government, though the Indian is a factor to be reckoned with today no less than in earlier years. All his life has been passed in this region, and in his younger days Mr. Dillard has hunted wild game in forests that have since been replaced with thriving villages and abundantly producing farms. He has acquired a good deal of property, and in Carter County alone holds lands to the extent of about 1200 acres. In New Wilson he owns and operates a thriving hotel, carries on a mercantile business,

and is a stockholder in the First National Bank. Speaking in general terms, he is a leader in the community and a man of wealth and influence.

Mr. Dillard was born in Southern Mississippi on September 14, 1862, and is the son of Hamilton Dillard and his wife, Elizabeth LeFlore, a daughter of a famous old Mississippi family.

Hamilton Dillard, his father, was born in Carolina in 1833, and died at Caddo, in the Choctaw Nation in 1885. He came into the Indian Territory from his native state in 1862, settling in a community then called Doaksville, but now known as Fort Towson. He was a farmer rancher and stockman all his life, successful and prosperous, and he was a leader in the community that was the center of his activities.

A democrat, he served as County Judge in the Choctaw Nation and also served as clerk of the court there. He was of excellent character, and he had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His widow survives him, and is living in the vicinity of Caddo,

Oklahoma. They were the parents of ten children. Joseph George died in Lindsay, Oklahoma, when he was forty-eight years old. Benjamin died in Tishomingo when he was forty-four years old. He was a farmer and stockman as had been Joseph George. The third child was Josiah Hamilton of this review. T. W. is a farmer and now lives in Caddo. John died at the age of twenty-two, and Lillian died when she was six. Gil is a farmer and lives at old Hewitt, Oklahoma. James died when a young man of twenty-six. He was a volunteer soldier in the Spanish American War and died in service. LeFlore lives at Hugo, where he is engaged in farming. Vera married Charles Jones and lives on a farm near Wilson.

Josiah Hamilton Billard had his early book training on a bench in the little log school house at old Goodland. He was later sent to the Academy at Spencer where he remained until he was about nineteen years of age. Up to the age of twenty his home was the old ranch of his father, and at that age he married and launched out on his own responsibility. He was better versed in farm lore than any other

subject and he quite naturally turned his attention to that enterprise. Up to the year 1884 he farmed successfully in the vicinity of Tishomingo, in the Chickasaw Nation, when he moved to Pickens County now Jefferson County, Oklahoma, there engaging in farming and stock raising until 1888.

Then Mr. Dillard located in Carter County, bought a farm and took as a homestead a government tract as well. In those years he farmed and gave a good deal of attention to stock breeding, enjoying a considerable financial success in the enterprise and accumulating properties here and there as a result. In 1913 he built a hotel in New Wilson, then badly in need of a comfortable hostelry and since February, 1914, he has been running the place himself. He did not go into the business as an experienced hotel man, but his natural good judgement came to the rescue when he found himself the proprietor of the place, and he has made a splendid success of the enterprise. Mr. Dillard also owns and conducts a grocery house on Main Street, and this, too is a very successful business. He also owns two other store buildings though he is not interested in the enter-

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prises they house, and he owns and operates a wagon yard, owns another hotel building and three nice residence properties in New Milson.

Mr. Dillard is a Democrat, and has always been the staunch ally of that party and its principles and purposes. In the days of the Chickasaw government he held certain offices under their rule, and since statehood in 1907 he has held various local offices under the present rule. In 1907 he was elected constable, the first time in Hewitt Township and afterward for the town of Milson, serving three and a half years, after which he was appointed deputy sheriff, in which office he served until Christmas 1914 when he resigned. Soon after he was appointed Justice of Peace to fill an unexpired term and later was elected to the office in which he is acting today.

Mr. Dillard is a member of a number of fraternal orders; among them, Woodmen of The World, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Masons.

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In 1883 Mr. Dillard married Miss Victoria Buckner, daughter of P. M. Buckner, well known and prosperous farmer of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, now deceased. Nine children have been born to them. Lee Hamilton and Joseph Carpenter live in Wilson and are engaged in farming. William Guy is manager of the wagon yard, which Mr. Dillard owns. Minnie married John Moore and lives on the old home farm. Feulah Mamie is with her parents. Cubby Fowler lives on the home place. Floyd died at the age of about eleven years. Douglas and Kermit are attending public schools.