

DONALDSON, JAMES S. INTERVIEW 10108

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

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) February 28 1938

1. Name James S. Donaldson

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1881

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father J. D. Donaldson Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Dicie Fickling Place of birth Alabama

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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Maurice R. Anderson
Investigator
February 28, 1938.

Interview with James S. Donaldson
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1881, in Texas. My father and mother settled in Texas in the early sixties, according to what they have told me. My mother was the first woman in Texas to be issued a license to practise medicine; she was known as Auht Dicie. My father was a stock raiser.

We moved from Texas to the Indian Territory in 1896; we crossed Red River at the old Colbert Crossing and located at Maples, in the Chickasaw Nation, eighteen miles east of Chickasha on the Purcell and Chickasha mail route. Jack Hale owned the adjoining farm and Tobe Dorsey was another adjoining neighbor. My father, when we moved to the Indian Territory, brought eighteen hundred head of cattle and one hundred and twenty head of breeding mares and work stock. He traded a few head of cattle to Quale Chapple for a dugout and two one room log houses; one of the houses was covered with boards and the other was covered over with ^a ~~sd.~~ ^{sd.}

In the Spring of 1897 I was forced to leave home with only fifty cents in money and my horse and saddle. I

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was only about sixteen years old; this is to show how some young men were forced from their homes through family troubles without any money and had to make their own way. When I left home I went to the Creek Indian country and got a job with Jimmie and Tommie Wells, two brothers who had a contract to build the railroad from Little River to the Canadian River through the Creek Nation. I worked on this road over a year.

During this time my father was forced to sell his cattle and stock and my mother and father separated and my mother wrote for me to come home so I could help her make a living, so I quit my railroad job and headed for home and before I reached home I was met by one of our United States Marshals named Crist Madsen, who was on the lookout for the Young Brothers. He thought I knew where they were so he held a gun on me and whipped me with his quirt until the blood ran down my back, trying to make me tell where the Young brothers were. I could not tell him for I didn't know. After this whipping I made it on to where my mother lived and it was several days before I was able to do anything. My wounds healed

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up but the hate I had for Crist Madgen, didn't heal so quickly. I waylaid him one evening and when he came along in his buggy, that was the way he traveled most, I emptied my Winchester into his buggy but never hit him and today I am thankful I did not.

I went to work for Blank and Ellison, who had the contract from the Government to issue beef to the Caddo Indians. The herd ground where the steers were held and fattened before they were issued to the Indians was located two miles north and one mile west of Verden. While holding cattle over at this place we boarded at the J. D. Downing ranch, a short ways from the holdover place. In 1902 I helped issue out three hundred and twenty steers to the Caddo Indians, which was the last issue that was made to them.

After this I came back home and helped my mother take care of the farm work. In later years I became an evangelist and I now travel around the country in an automobile. I have been over some of the country where I traveled on horseback when I was a young man.