

DWYER, J. L.

INTERVIEW

10059

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

DWYER, J. L.

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Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead.

This report made on (date) February 22, 1938. 1938

1. Name Mr. J. L. Dwyer.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) North of town, General Delivery.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 1 Year 1877.

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father Mike M. Dwyer. Place of birth Ireland.

Other information about father. Died at the age of 45.

7. Name of Mother Menirvia W. Price. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother Died at the age of 87.

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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Jasper H. Mead,
Investigator,
Feb. 22, 1938.

An Interview With J. L. Dwyer,
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is J. L. Dwyer. I was born January 1st, 1877, in the state of Texas, sixty-one years ago. The first place I landed when I came to the Territory was Lawton, in 1903.

Lawton in 1903 was a very small place. In fact it was just a camp town with nothing there but small camp houses and only a few of them. This town was named after General Lawton who was stationed at Fort Sill, and his main job was to send out regiments of soldiers to keep down Indian outbreaks, and he was the general who was given credit for capturing Chief Geronimo who was supposed to be the last real bad Indian. I have seen this Indian, Geronimo, several times myself. The soldiers used to bring him down to Lawton and let him have a little exercise. He had a coat made out of white women's scalps and in this coat he had one red scalp and when the soldiers would take him out to let him exercise he always

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wanted to wear this coat, but the soldiers would not let him as they were afraid that some white man might take a shot at him.

Quanah Parker was another prominent Indian whom I have seen several times. He was only half Indian. His mother was a white woman.

Quanah Parker had seven wives and I have seen two of them and have seen both these wives together with him.

There were lots of Indians around Lawton. I have seen them come to town and buy meat in the butcher shop and get right out in the middle of the street and cook and eat it. After the Indians got through eating they would all smoke, women and all.

In 1903, around Lawton, if you were going down the road and met an Indian, and did not give him the road, it surely made him mad. I have seen Indians dressed, in the every day walks of life, with nothing on but gee strings.

When I first landed in Lawton in 1903 there wasn't any church house nor school house around there and there was very little if any farming done, because the land was still in sod and had not been broken out yet.

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The main water supply came from dug wells and this well water was extra good and the wells would average a hundred and fifty feet in depth. In 1904 the men around Lawton started to dig a square well; this well was about eight or ten feet square and when they got about seven feet deep they struck water and so much oil came in with the water that they decided not to go any deeper. I do not know what was the idea of this square well, but they dug it any way.

In 1905 I came to Chickasha and thought I would stay here all night and I have been here ever since. I worked at the Rock Island shops for fifteen years and am a mechanic by trade.