

EASON, W. M.

INTERVIEW

10336

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80

LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

81

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Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) March 18, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was  
secured from (name) W. M. Eason.

Address Route #2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or ~~female~~ ~~white~~, Negro, ~~Indian~~)

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story Dibble as an early trading  
post and development of country.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank  
sheets, and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets  
attached \_\_\_\_\_

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Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator,  
March 18, 1938.

Interview With W. L. Eason,  
Rt. 2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in North Carolina, though I do not know the date, but was removed from that state to Arkansas by my parents in 1880 and remained there till in 1890 at which time I started on my own.

I came to the Indian Territory and soon after arriving at my desired destination I secured employment from a ranchman near where the town of Washington now is located, being employed as a cowhand at wages of \$15.00 per month which was sufficient to carry on my business.

After two years of work there, I was then married and settled for myself, erecting my first home, a dugout, which was located near the bank of Walnut Creek in what is now the north central part of McClain County.

My furniture consisted of some hand-made chairs and a very few other articles, all home-made.

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I had secured a few head of cattle and the first few years were devoted exclusively to watching after my cows and fishing and hunting. Fishing was very good and game was plentiful.

The country was very thinly settled and only the Chickasaw Indians and negroes lived in this section of the country. I am a Chickasaw by reputation as I adopted the ways of the tribe soon after coming to the Territory.

There were about three houses north and west of Purcell to the Canadian River.

Dibble, my post office and trading point, was then located some nine miles southeast of where the town of Blanchard is now located. This place and Purcell were the only trading points here then. Dibble consisted of a post office, store and gristmill and was one of the oldest trading places in the Chickasaw Nation. The owner of the store was Jim Gardner.

The post office at Dibble has long been discontinued, though a small town still exists at the same location and still bears the name of Dibble.

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Farming was done on a very small scale; especially was this so with the colored people and the Chickasaw Indians. Only small patches of Tom Fuller corn and some little cotton was raised for we had no markets for the products. The corn that was raised was used principally for food which consisted mainly of corn bread, molasses, beef and venison. Of course, a turkey or fish could be had any time.

About 1900 this country began in general to be developed in the agricultural business and at that time I purchased a small tract of land one mile north and one west of old Womack. This town was a one store town that was located on Walnut Creek three miles southeast of where Blanchard now is and continued in operation till about 1905 at which time, with the building of the town of Blanchard, Womack was discontinued and was moved to the new town.