



BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project

MONCRIEF, BUNK.

INTERVIEW.

8832.

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) October 13, 1937

1. Name Bunk Moncrief.

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Route # 1.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 13 Year 1879.

5. Place of birth Chickasaw-Choctaw Nation.

6. Name of Father Wm. Moncrief. Place of birth Skullyville,  
Indian Territory.

7. Name of Mother Lina Maupin. Place of birth Kentucky.

Other information about mother Still living.

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 3.

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Thad Smith Jr.  
Investigator,  
October 13, 1937.

An Interview with Bunk Moncrief.  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born in the Chickasaw Nation, on Roaring Creek,  
in 1879.

My father was a farmer and trader. He raised corn to  
feed his cows, horses, hogs and chickens. He bought his sup-  
plies at Pauls Valley.

In 1886, when I was seven years old, I went to stay with  
my Grandmother Moncrief, who lived on the Little Washita River,  
about three miles south of where the Fred post office was. My  
grandmother had one of the <sup>first</sup> herds of Durham cattle that there  
was in the country and her brand was M+. The country was all  
open, but her cattle never strayed far.

My grandmother was a widow, and the cowboys were kind  
enough to keep a watch over her cattle, even though they never  
worked for her. If they would find one of her cows several miles  
from home, they would bring or send it back. That is one out-  
standing thing about the frontier men; they would all help, and  
respect women.

Dave and Scott Cook had the post office at Fred, and they

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ran a general merchandise store. Mail was delivered at Fred about once a week, being carried in a stage coach or hack. From Fred the stage coach went to Anadarko, and then back on its way to Pauls Valley and Caddo.

I went to school in a little one-room cottonwood box house in Fred. The benches we sat on and the tables we used for desks were made of cottonwood; the lumber used to build our school house and desks came from Bitter Creek, where there was a sawmill.

There were about twenty-five school children going to school at Fred and most all of them rode to school horseback. Our teacher's name was Bud Gibbs. Our school books were made by McGuffey and we used a slate instead of pencil and paper.

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~~All of the children brought their lunches, which consisted mostly of biscuits and meat.~~

After going to school at Fred several terms I was sent to Sacred Heart, a Catholic Missionary School in the Pottawatomie county. I was treated very nice there, and they fed us good. After going to school there one term, I quit school.

In 1895, when I was sixteen years old, I saddled my horse

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and made a trip to Texas by myself, hunting work. The people along the way whom I stayed overnight with treated me nice, fed me and my horse and never charged me anything.

I got a job in Texas working on a big cattle ranch, and stayed there one year then returned to my parents' home on the north side of the Washita river just north of Chickasha.

I was allotted five miles northwest of Chickasha. I am one-eighth Chickasaw.