

MORGAN, LEE

INTERVIEW

#8908

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INTERVIEW

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Jasper H. MeadThis report made on (date) October 12, 19371. Name Lee Morgan2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 701 North 12th St.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 27 Year 18815. Place of birth State of Mississippi6. Name of Father R. W. Morgan Place of birth N. CarolinaOther information about father Died at the age of 637. Name of Mother Isabeler Hunter Place of birth GeorgiaOther information about mother Died at the age of 71

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 4.

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Jasper H. Mead,  
Investigator  
October 12, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Lee Morgan,  
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is Lee Morgan. I was born September 27, 1881, in the state of Mississippi, fifty-six years ago and I came to Oklahoma in 1891. The first place we landed was at McMillan, Indian Territory, now called Oklahoma.

McMillan was a small inland town about twenty-eight miles from Ardmore; it had three or four stores and a blacksmith shop and plank sidewalks which were about three feet wide, except where the walk passed in front of one of the stores.

The church house and schoolhouse were combined and they called the school a subscription school. Each student paid \$1.25 per month and the term generally lasted six months out of the year.

Around in the lowlands and in the bottoms were a few farms but the rest of the upland was all in prairie

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and ranch land and outside of a little farming most of the work consisted of ranch work which paid \$25.00 per month with board and room.

Haner Willis was a big ranch owner and also owned lots of cattle and horses. George McMillan was a big ranch owner, too. He was the man for whom the little town was named and he used to be my father's partner.

The water supply at McMillan came from dug wells; we had a few springs around there which were located up in the Yellow Hills. There were lots of Chickasaw Indians around there but they never gave us any trouble. There were lots of deer, wild turkey and some antelope but I never did see any buffalo because they were farther west toward the panhandle.

The "laws" we had were United States marshals and their names were Charley Burnes, Jim Bridges

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and Buck Garette. Their job was looking after thieves and people who had broken the law in other states and had come to the Territory to escape punishment.

A man named "Scar face Jim", James boys, and the Starr family were the noted outlaws in those days. The Colbert boys robbed the Marietta Bank and later were killed.

A man named Tobe Louis was given credit for building the town of Madill.

East of Ardmore is a large cave and hideout which the James boys used; I have been on the inside of this cave several times and there is a flat rock here which is about three feet high which was used for a table. Lots of the outlaws had their names chiseled into this table, I have eaten several meals off of it myself.

Tom Pickens was the last Chickasaw Indian Chief to give up or to be captured, I have seen him lots

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of times and my father was the Administrator of Tom Picken's property. He was the only full-blood Indian at that time who had ever belonged to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

I went to work on the third day of June, 1914, for the Chickasha Ice and Cold Storage Company and have been with them ever since.

I have been working for this company for twenty-three years.