

EDWARDS, JOHN B.

INTERVIEW.

9476

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

228

EDWARDS, JOHN B.

INTERVIEW

9476

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman,

This report made on (date) December 17, 1957

1. This legend was secured from (name) John B. Edwards,

Address Blanchard, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. origin and history of legend or story _____

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

EDWARDS, JOHN B.

INTERVIEW

9476

Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
December 17, 1937.

Interview with John B. Edwards,
Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in Arkansas, April 4, 1875, and after coming to the Territory I settled in the Chickasaw Nation, at a place known as Womack. This was a small inland town consisting of one store which was owned and operated by H. Blanchard.

After some consideration I bought this store and became engaged in the grocery business. I also operated a small post office at Womack, mail being hauled to and from the post office at Dibble. Conveyance was a two-horse hack which was permitted to carry passengers, also.

Some years later a cotton gin was built at Womack and stockmen came there to buy the surplus corn which was used mainly to feed the cattle in winter. For sometime it seemed that the town of Womack would become an established place as there were four stores then in operation and business was good.

Later came the building of a railroad known as the Oklahoma Central and we did everything possible to persuade

EDWARDS, JOHN B.

INTERVIEW

9476

-2-

the railroad to build by our town. However, Womack was missed and in the set-up a depot was built at where the town of Blanchard now is.

Soon a store was put up and a post office known as Blanchard was established. A townsite was laid out and it was then that the people of Womack began to realize that our little town would sooner or later likely be discontinued. The people of Womack fought on, still maintaining the right of an established townsite and continued to operate the post office, in spite of the fact a distance of only three miles separated us from the new town of Blanchard. But our office was discontinued, all mail being rerouted to Blanchard. The gin then went to Blanchard and business in general began to move.

In 1908 I moved my store to Blanchard, the last of the survivors of Womack and this was the end of old Womack.

I now live at the town of Blanchard where I have been engaged in the mercantile business since I came here in 1908.