

MORTON, TUCKER W.

INTERVIEW

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**194**

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

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Field Worker's name Jerome M. EmmonsThis report made on (date) June 15, 19371. Name Tucker A. Morton2. Post Office Address General Delivery, Okmulgee, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) Half mile west and half mile south of4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 14 Year 1863  
Glass Plant.5. Place of birth Near Jefferson, Marion County, Texas6. Name of Father William Morton Place of birth AlabamaOther information about father Buried at Sharp Cemetery7. Name of Mother Bulah Hodge Place of birth Stuart CountyOther information about mother Born on Mar. 10, 1839  
Georgiaburied at Sharp Cemetery

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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Interview with Tucker W. Morton  
1 mile south of glass plant,  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Mr. Morton, a member of the Creek Tribe, resides at a place owned by his first wife, one mile south of glass plant, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

I am a member of the Creek Tribe, as are my four brothers. We are listed as three-eighths Creek blood. My mother was a full-blood and my father was white, with some Spanish blood.

#### MIGRATION

My parents moved to Hiliby first in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory. This place is forty-five miles south of Okmulgee and twenty-five miles west of Eufaula, Creek Nation. We lived there two years.

On September 23, 1883, we moved to a settlement on the river, a few miles west of my present home. I have lived there ever since.

#### SCHOOLING

I attended school in Texas up to the sixth grade, but never attended any schools in the Indian Territory.

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## FARMING

My parents owned ten acres of land and rented about thirty near their home. They raised corn, some cotton and all manner of vegetables for home consumption.

## GAME

I used to kill lots of deer, turkey, quail and rabbits. I would get up early in the morning and go out two or three miles and wait for dawn. By 'still hunting', which is standing quietly in one place, I could get a shot at game in short time. Any noise would start turkeys in the trees where they had roosted for the night to gobbling, and I could get several before they were frightened off. A person needed only to wait a short time before a deer would come through the woods. Then a quick, well placed shot would provide venison for some time.

I was with two colored men one morning, who were looking for some land to settle on, when we sighted what we took to be a deer in the distance. I hadn't before shot at game at that distance, but decided to chance a shot at it.

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The deer fell and then got up and I shot again. When we got up to where it was, I found it had been shot twice, first in the hip and secondly through the windpipe. As we started back, we saw a second deer which had been shot through the neck. The two deer had been running side by side and I had shot one through the neck and the ball went through it and struck the other deer in the hip, knocking it down. I had only seen one deer running at the time and so had thought it had taken a second shot to finish the same deer.

In 1894, and other years before 1906, men would come out to my place to get me to go duck hunting with them. I would never take part in these hunts, but would go along mostly as a guide. They would slaughter ducks and other wild-fowls for shipment to Kansas City and other markets.

#### GUNS

I owned at different times: .44-40, .38-40 and .8-56 Winchesters; .44 Henry; .44 Kennedy; and a .58-40 Colt rifle. A gun purchased in later years, a .460 Marlin, was my favorite gun. It weighed nine pounds.

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## CHURCH

When I came here in 1883, services in the churches of the Creek Nation were well attended and quietly conducted. The men and women sat on opposite sides of the church. A man, called a 'Dog-puncher', kept the church free of such animals during services and with a cane could inform people they were wanted outside, etc., without undue talking.

## EPIDEMIC

There was a smallpox epidemic in Okmulgee in 1895. At this time the whole town was quarantined.

## CATTLE

At one time my parents had a number of cattle. So many were stolen, however, that they finally quit trying to raise any.

## TRADING POST

The only trading post, besides Okmulgee, that I knew of was one store, located ten miles south of Okmulgee. James Cunard, a Creek Indian, was the owner. He opened it in 1882.

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Captain F. B. Severs and James Parkinson had general stores in Okmulgee. Captain C. C. Belcher was the Postmaster. Silas Smith owned both the Creek Capitol Hotel and a blacksmith shop. Isaac Manual was the helper in the shop and Luther Hartridge, the wheelwright.

The stage coach was running when I came here.

#### TRAILS

The old Texas trail, I have been told by older Indians, ran by the place where I am now living. When I first moved here there was a road through here and evidences of much travel. It ran from Okmulgee and on southwest from here.

#### UNITED STATES MARSHALS

The Barnett boys, who lived around Henryetta as it is now called, and some deputy marshals had a shooting scrape at a stamp dance held at Pamoslocko. This was in 1898.

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## FOLKLORE

My mother thought it was bad to sweep under a bed or chairs when people were sick. She wouldn't let us sweep under her bed in her last illness, although it certainly needed it.

She thought to put a horse shoe in the top of the stove would keep away hawks; and that to turn a shoe upside down kept screech owls away.

I believed these and other superstitions of the Creek Indians until I grew old enough and thoughtful enough to see how foolish they were.