

MOORE, W. H.

INTERVIEW

9818

380

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

381

MOORE, W. H.

INTERVIEW

1938

Field worker's name Robert H. Senter

This report made on (date) January 25, 1938,

1. This legend was secured from (name) W. H. MOORE

Address Route #1, Washington, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

MOORE, W. H.

INTERVIEW

9919

Robert H. Boatman  
Investigator  
January 25, 1938

Interview with W. H. Moore,  
Route #1, Washington, Okla-  
homa.

I came to the Indian Territory in 1872, at the age of two years (I was born November 17, 1870, in Texas) with my parents. We came with ox-teams and covered wagons from Texas to the Territory and suffered many hardships and made very slow progress. We settled at old Chintown, a small trading post of the very early days, located near the Red River in the old Chickasaw Nation. This trading post consisted of one small store. Cattle and horses were traded for supplies, for there was very little money in this country at that time. After the keeper of the post had collected several head of stock, he sold them to some ranchman or drove them across to Gainesville, Texas, and sold them. In this way business was carried along for a great many years.

There were no white people to speak of at all in the territory until about 1885. Of course, there were a few scattered about who had run away from some of the states as fugitives from Justice. Many Indians then lived in this country, and their homes consisted mainly of tents and log or pole huts covered with sod and clay;

MOORE, W. H.

INTERVIEW

9818

-2-

most of them had a chimney built of sticks and dirt. Clothing and bedding consisted mainly of moccasins shoes and blankets. Furniture consisted of very little to none, and was hand-made and of very poor construction.

There wasn't any land broke at all then in the territory and the people knew nothing at all about the farming industry. The principal food was corn bread, beef and wild game which was killed from the range and which was very plentiful. Turkey, deer and antelope were plentiful, and a man was hardly ever required to go more than 300 or 400 yards from his camp to secure the amount necessary. Game was easy to kill and the sage grass was then as high as a man's head.

The old trading post, Chintown, continued until 1884, then it took the name of old Thackerville and continued in operation at the same place until 1887, when a railroad came through. It missed the old post by some three or four miles and a new post was established, a townsite laid out by the Government and given the name New Thackerville; then old Thackerville, once known as Chintown, was discontinued and exists only in the minds of the very early people as

MOORE, W. H.

INTERVIEW

2012

-3-

one of the oldest trading posts ever known in the Indian Territory.

As development of the country began in general I settled permanently in what is now McClain County, some four miles west of the town of Washington. Since that time I have resided at the same place and here at my home I expect to remain all the rest of my life.