

INDEX CARDS

↓
Wilburton
Leasing--Choctaw Nation
Government--Choctaw
Timber--Choctaw Nation

- 8 -

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Bradley BotingerThis report made on (date) May 10 1937. Name Sophronia Nead. Post Office Address Wilburton. Residence address (or location) In the out edge of Wilburton City. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 25 Year 1853. Place of birth Council Hill -then in the creek Nation. Name of Father George Washington Lemon Place of birth Does not rememberOther information about father Buried in community cemetery North
of Wilburton.

. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother Mother died when she was small childDoes not remember any thing of her.

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 2.

INTERVIEW WITH SOPHRONIA NEAD

FIELD WORKER PADDLY BOLLINGER.

May 10, 1937

My husband, James A. Nead, died October 9, 1923.

We had lived in this Choctaw nation all our lives. It was an easy matter to find a place to live. The Choctaw tribe of Indians in those days had control of all the land and you were permitted to settle and build your house on most any of the smooth land with a small payment to the Indian Department. There were no roads through this country in those days and not any towns had been located yet.

There was a man by the name of Riddle who opened up a trading post where the city of Wilburton is now located. I do not remember the exact date it was started. It was a great help to the settlers.

My husband and I were personally acquainted with Green McCurtain, the governor of the Choctaw tribe. He was a full-blood Choctaw Indian. They did not have an office in those days- they just kept all the records necessary right in their home and traveled around the tribe horseback. Green McCurtain was to the best of my memory the Choctaw governor for six

2

years. Then the son was placed in the father's place, but the Choctaw people were more satisfied with the father than with the son.

There was a rule or law in the Choctaw tribe that a white man could establish his membership in the tribe if he married an Indian woman, making him what they called an Intermarried Citizen, which entitled him to an Indian's share of the tribal land.

There was a railroad built through this country, called the Choctaw road. My husband cut lots of timber for this road. Then there was coal discovered around the country where Wilburton is now and there was lots of employment for the settlers who wanted to work.