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Charline M. Culbertson,
Investigator.
March 10, 1938.

an interview with H. W. Nichols,
B & Cherokee, McAlester, Oklahoma.

I was born in Missouri in the year of 1872.

My parents were Joseph and Jane Nichols. Father was buried at Cleborn, Oklahoma and mother was buried at Ardmore. Father fought in the Civil War but I do not know what company he was with. He was wounded twice.

I came with my parents to the Indian Territory when I was ten years of age. We came from the state of Texas and located where Ardmore is today. Our trip was made in covered wagon with horse team taking us about ten days to make the trip.

Father's purpose in coming to the territory was to hunt but after he built his log house he started farming about fifty acres of land such as corn and garden vegetables. He had a few cattle that ran on the range.

This little Indian village where we lived was called Crinerville. There were only three or four white families there. The first store building was of sheet iron and was known as the T. C. Woodhouse store. Other stores were, Dobbs,

NICHOLS, H. W.

INTERVIEW.

13161.

- 2 -

Spriggins and Staples.

The school house and church combined was east of the Santa Fe railroad tracks.

Father worked with the construction crew when they were laying the Santa Fe railroad from Texas to Kansas City, Missouri; however, he only went as far as Purcell. His family traveled along with him.

The full bloods living near us mostly occupied little hewed log huts. All the farming was called Tom Fuller patches and the women would do that work. They did all their planting in hills.

I have attended their fish fries on the Washita River. They would catch the fish by hand from canoes but would make the fish come to the top of the water by putting devil's shoe string weeds in the water.

The Indians were very conservative with their game. They would never kill more deer or wild turkey than they could use. They also never destroyed the small fish. They would kill so many hens and gobblers out of one bunch of turkeys and then if they wanted more they would hunt for another bunch.

NICHOLS, H. W.

INTERVIEW.

13161.

- 3 -

Some of the barks they used in making dyes were as follows, sumac, post oak, ash and red bud.

The women were all good swimmers. They were taught early in life how to swim. I have seen the mothers take the children from two to five down to a creek and if there should be a thin crust of ice on the water they would break this and throw the kid in the water and it would go down the third time before she would jump in after it. She would keep this up until it learned to swim.

I have witnessed the pashofa and war dances. They would be very much insulted if the white man did not eat with them after the dance.

At the war dances the men wore britch clouts and the women came in their usual dress with lots of bells, rings and bracelets. They made lots of noise and would talk in a grunting way. We would eat the pashofa with a horn spoon.