

NORTERIP, J. E.

INTERVIEW

13508

351.

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

NORTHRIP, J. E.

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13508.

Field Worker's name Johnson H. Hampton.

This report made on (date) March 31, 1938

1. Name J. E. Northrip.

2. Post Office Address Antlers, Oklahoma, Route #1.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 27 Year 1869.

5. Place of birth Laclede County, Missouri.

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth Missouri.

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

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 four sheets.

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Johnson H. Hampton,  
Investigator,  
March 31, 1938.

Interview with Mr. J. E. Northrip,  
Antlers, Oklahoma, Route # 3.

I was born March 27, 1869, in Laclede County, Missouri, but came to the Indian Territory and located at Hewett, in the Chickasaw Nation, with my father and mother in 1889. We came over in two covered wagons and it took us several weeks to get here on account of the roads; in fact, there were no roads at that time. My father wanted to come to the Indian country, thinking that it would offer better opportunities for a man who wanted to work and make money and living for his family, so we loaded up our wagons and started out. It seemed to me that it was a long ways out here and that the Indians were pretty bad for we had not seen any Indians before but when we finally got here and got located it was not bad at all to what I expected. What few white people who were living here at that time were a whole lot worse than the Indians.

When we got located we rented a farm from an Indian named George Dillard. We lived in a double log house,

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floored with oak lumber; that was all they had in that country; they had no pine timber in that part of the country. The double log house was a pretty good house. We lived on this farm and farmed the land for about ten years and we made lots of corn and cotton. We had our cotton ginned at Hewett and sold it for from 5¢ to 8¢ per pound in lint. That was very cheap but we made money out of the cotton for we did not have to put out much work to make the crop. Corn was not worth anything and I have seen corn piled up in rows out on the ground when they could not get room under the shed to take care of it after they raised it.

At that time the country was all open; there were no houses to be seen, our closest neighbor being about four miles from us. We could go from our home to Ardmore at that time, about twenty miles, and not see a house on the road. The grass in that country was fine; it was a good cattle country and there were lots of cattle. The cowtown was Ardmore, where they shipped their cattle to the market. The country was full of Indian ponies; they were not worth anything, they just had them

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and could not sell any of them at any price.

In the settlement where I lived there were not many white people; they were mostly Chickasaws and not too many of them. We lived on this place for about ten years, then moved from there and went to a place called Center in the same Nation. We rented a farm there and lived and farmed there until 1902, we then moved from there and went to <sup>the</sup>/~~Sem-~~inole Nation and rented land and farmed for about ten years. We moved from there to Atoka County, lived in that county for two years, then moved from there to Coal County, where we lived and farmed for about twelve years near Lehigh, a coal town. They were digging coal at this place; we then moved from there and came to what is now Pushmataha County, we have been living here in this county for eleven years. During all this time we have lived in log houses or box lumber houses, have made good crops at each place and had <sup>a</sup>/~~good~~ deal stock such as cattle and hogs; but we did not have any ponies except our work stock.

In my rounds, I have lived among three different tribes of Indians, the Chickasaws, Seminoles and Choctaws and I think they are all good people. I have never had any trouble with

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any of them. I have traded with them, rented land from them and they always treated me fine. They have come right up and paid what they owed, I did not have to run after them to get my pay for anything. They were all honest, straight and law-abiding people and they sure are the best neighbors for they won't come to see you but once in awhile..

My boy married a Choctaw Indian woman and they are getting along just fine and one of the Indian boys married one of my girls and they are also doing well. It seems that the Indians get along better with their wives than most of the white people; they are not getting divorces like the white people do these days.

My father died in 1892 near where Wilson is now and was buried at Bowman Cemetery on the hill overlooking the town of Wilson. My mother died at Seminole in 1914 and is buried there in that cemetery.