

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHICKASAW INDIANS

1865-1907

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## PREFACE

My aim in this thesis is to present chronologically the economic development of the Chickasaw Indians from 1865 to 1907. The treatment is by no means exhaustive; indeed, much concerning the tribe has been omitted, not because of lack of information but for the sake of brevity.

I have touched on the life of these people solely in the period bounded by the Civil War and Oklahoma statehood, and then only in rather broad general outlines. To have treated even this one period fully would have meant months of research resulting in a book of hundreds of pages.

Where there has been much factual material to choose from I have selected my data on the basis of its authenticity, its recency, and its thoroughness.

C. R. B.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness in the preparation of this thesis to certain of my professors and friends. To Dr. T. H. Reynolds I am indebted for suggesting to me this particular phase of the history of the Chickasaw Indians and for advice and encouragement from time to time. I am also grateful to J. Hamp Willis, R. D. McDougall, Tom Christian, and W. F. Morgan, with whom I have discussed much of the content of this paper; to J. M. Yarborough for the use of books on Indian law and history; to my father, F. J. Buck, who verified much of my data; and to the staff of the Library document department. For reading and criticizing this thesis I express my sincere thanks to Professors Mable D. Holt and G. C. Anderson and to my wife.

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## I. Development Immediately

### After the Civil War

The end of the Civil War found conditions in the Chickasaw Nation all but chaotic. The Chickasaws had been almost unanimous in their attachment to the South during the War of Rebellion, for only two hundred and twenty-five Chickasaws remained loyal to the United States; the end of the war found this small group in a refugee camp in Kansas.<sup>1</sup> Comparatively little of the tribal lands had been overrun by the federal forces, but nevertheless the war had been devastating; the fields had not been cultivated for four or five years, many homes had been destroyed, livestock was driven away, and fences were torn down. In many localities total desolation prevailed. Adding to the hardships suffered by the Chickasaws were roving bands of refugee Cherokees, Seminoles, and Osages who helped to impoverish the Chickasaws, fully able to care for themselves if left alone.<sup>2</sup>

The Indians had been agriculturists from the time of

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<sup>1</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1865, p. 255.

<sup>2</sup>J. B. Thoburn, A Standard History of Oklahoma (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1916), II, 341-342.

their removal to Oklahoma to the beginning of the Civil War, and they were desirous of beginning life anew. However, the federal government required that a new treaty be made before the Indians start planning for the future. This treaty, made with the Choctaws and the Chickasaws in Washington, D.C., April 28, 1866, caused the Indians the loss of "the territory west of the 98<sup>o</sup> west longitude known as the leased district."<sup>3</sup> At the time the treaty was signed there were only forty-five hundred Chickasaws.<sup>4</sup> This small group had controlled eleven million acres of land from 1855 to 1866. The treaty of 1866, however, provided for the release of six million eight hundred thousand acres of land lying in the area bounded by the ninety-eighth and one-hundredth meridians and the Red and Canadian rivers. This vast tract of land was to be occupied by Indians from other states. The original owners had more than 4,640,935 acres, or about seven thousand square miles, of land remaining after the treaty.<sup>5</sup>

The new boundaries of the Nation were as follows:

Beginning on the north bank of Red River, at the mouth of Island Bayou, where it empties into Red River, about twenty-six miles on a straight line below the mouth of False Washita; thence

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<sup>3</sup>Charles J. Kappler, Indian Affairs, Laws, and Treaties (2nd ed.; Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904), II, 919.

<sup>4</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1867, p. 21.

<sup>5</sup>E. E. Dale and J. L. Rader, Readings in Oklahoma History (New York: Row, Peterson and Company, 1930), p. 631.



running a northwesterly course along the main channel of said bayou to the junction of the three prongs of said bayou nearest the dividing ridge between Washita and Low Blue rivers, as laid down on Captain R. L. Hunter's map; thence northerly along the eastern prong of said Island Bayou to its source; thence due north to the Canadian river; thence west along the main Canadian to the ninety-eighth degree of west longitude; thence south to Red river, and thence down Red River to the beginning.<sup>6</sup>

Despite the loss of the greater part of their lands, the Chickasaws were glad to resume friendly relations with the federal government and soon began to rehabilitate themselves. By 1869 they had re-established their homes and cultivated their fields and were again in a period of prosperity. The agent gave the missionaries and federal agents credit for instructing the Indians in agricultural pursuits which brought such prosperity to the Indians.<sup>7</sup> He reported that abundant crops were raised that year - oats, corn, barley, wheat, cotton, and vegetables. Many thousands of tons of wild grasses were cut and stored for hay.<sup>8</sup>

The land was adapted to many purposes: the rich river-bottom land was well suited to the production of cotton and corn, while the level and slightly rolling prairies were covered with native grasses which would

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<sup>6</sup>Sen. Doc. 542, 57 Cong., 1 sess., pp. 361-362.

<sup>7</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1869, p. 37.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., pp. 407-408.

sustain livestock twelve months in the year; when cultivated, the prairie land would produce abundant yields of wheat, oats, barley, and other crops. Corn, however, was the staple food of the Indians. They used it in many forms, both in the green stage and after it was hardened. The uplands and hills were fine for pasture. Many species of trees were to be found along the rivers and creeks and on the hillsides.<sup>9</sup> Orchards of apples, peaches, plums, and pears were to be found on every homestead. The use of nuts such as pecans, walnuts, and hickory nuts was common in preparing certain foods. There was considerable trade in nuts along the Red and Washita Rivers. Many of the Indians had more than three to five thousand acres of land in cultivation. Some of the large landholders were Pittman Colbert, Jackson Kemp, Benjamin Love, Henry Love, Sloan Love, J. Hamp Willis, George A. Yarborough, Frank Murray, and Smith Paul. A complete list would include the names of hundreds of families still prominent in the old Chickasaw area.<sup>10</sup>

The Indians had a plentiful supply of livestock, both for food and as beasts of burden. They bred and raised horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and a few

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid., 1870, pp. 291-293.

<sup>10</sup>J. B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1929), I, 241-244.

mules, and raised such types of poultry as were found in adjoining states - chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, and guineas. The raising of livestock required very little work or worry on the part of the owners, the practice being to let the animals roam at will on the range land. The land being held in common, each Indian was permitted to own and graze as many animals as he cared to brand and look after. A non-citizen was not permitted the use of pasture or grazing land. Indeed, the Chickasaw legislature passed a law in 1870 which gave any citizen the legal right to capture and hold any animal belonging to a non-citizen which was found upon the public lands of the Nation.<sup>11</sup> The stock law further provided protection for the livestock that bore the mark and brands of individual members of the tribe. If an animal did not have the mark or brand of an Indian on it, the animal was an estray, and all estrays could be impounded by an Indian or officer of the tribal government.<sup>12</sup> Naturally every Indian was alert to catch the estrays.

The freed slaves were prospering in their several pursuits; some of them farmed for themselves; others went into trades, while still others were hired as field hands. They were well treated by the citizens and seemed dis-

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<sup>11</sup>Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation (Parsons, Kansas: Foley Railway Printing Company, 1889), p. 46.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., pp. 75-76.

posed to continue among them.<sup>13</sup>

The presence of whites in the Nation was legalized in the treaty of 1866. Article XXXVIII provided for the whites to become Indian citizens when married with Indians. After marriage, the former non-citizen became a citizen eligible to share in the lands, annuities, and political rights.<sup>14</sup> This provision caused many whites to enter the Nation for the sole purpose of taking advantage of the Indians. The productive land and probable opportunity of owning hundreds of acres caused increased stimulation in larger landholding. With larger landholding came increased production in staple farm crops, livestock, and hay.

The treaty of 1866 provided for the construction of railroads through the nations of the Five Civilized Tribes. Article VI of the treaty provided that rights-of-way, switchyards, and sidings were to be paid for at appraised value, and any other property belonging to members of the tribe which might be damaged or destroyed should be paid for by the railroad company.<sup>15</sup> The first railroad to obtain a grant across the Indian Territory

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<sup>13</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1869, pp. 407-408.

<sup>14</sup>Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation, p. 511.

<sup>15</sup>Kappler, op. cit., pp. 920-921.

was the southern branch of the Union Pacific.<sup>16</sup> The rights and concessions of this first company were, however, taken over a few years later by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company. This company received its charter from the federal government, the State of Kansas, and the tribal governments of the Indian nations through which it passed.<sup>17</sup>

The coming of the railroads changed the agricultural system of the Chickasaws. The whites who came into the Nation incident to the surveying of the right-of-way and those who came in with the actual laying of the tracks swelled the population of the Chickasaw Nation to more than twenty-five thousand inhabitants. These new whites were in the Nation illegally. To keep peace and order, the Nation passed laws permitting these intruders to work for members of the tribe. The law read as follows:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Chickasaw Nation, That citizens of any State or Territory of the United States, wishing to hire or rent land or be otherwise employed in this Nation, shall be required to enter into contract with a citizen, and after contract has been agreed upon, the non-citizen shall place in the hands of the citizen a sufficient amount of money to pay permits, and that the permit Collector shall receive no permit money from any other person, except from a citizen of this Nation, and for each and every violation, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars for each and every offense, by the County Judge or the county

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<sup>16</sup>U. S. Stat. at Large, XIV, 289-290.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., pp. 426-427.

where the offense was committed.<sup>18</sup>

The law further stated that the non-citizen must be law-abiding and responsible to the citizen with whom the contract was made.

Many of the better educated Indians took advantage of the permit law and contracted with a large number of whites and negroes for labor. The whites and negroes were then employed in clearing land for cultivation, building fences, and cultivating crops. By following this method, many Indians became rather wealthy and at the same time obtained control of thousands of acres of land. Frank Colbert cultivated more than one thousand acres of land in the Red river bottoms south of Colbert. Mr. Colbert raised cotton, corn, livestock, fruits, and vegetables. He owned a cotton gin, a commissary, and other properties.<sup>19</sup>

In 1872 the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroad completed the laying of its track across the Indian Territory from the north to the south. This road, however, had only a few miles of track in the Chickasaw Nation. The year it was completed James Colbert and J. A. Smith located six hundred and forty acres of land for

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<sup>18</sup>Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation, pp. 229-230.

<sup>19</sup>History of Indian Territory (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1901), pp. 196-197.

town-site purposes. Every person who agreed to build a house for a home or business was given free use of land for that purpose. This town was named Colbert in honor of Frank Colbert. It was the only town in the Chickasaw Nation on this road.<sup>20</sup>

This railroad afforded an outlet for farm products of this section of the Nation and at the same time brought in goods from other centers which the people of the territory needed. The commerce naturally increased agricultural production and brought in more people from the border states of Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas. Other small towns soon came into existence and gave the citizens advantages of marketing places for their farm crops. These factors tended to increase the number of landholders, influence the size of the holdings, and bring a more diversified type of agriculture. As the number of inter-marriages increased, the methods followed in agricultural activities came to be those practiced by the whites. Likewise, the farm homes changed from the primitive to a more pretentious type built of sawed lumber and painted, and quite often two stories in height.

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<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 196.

II. Development From  
1872 to 1901

Economic conditions changed rapidly in the Chickasaw Nation after 1872. The Indians of mixed bloods were taking more interest in tribal affairs, in political problems concerning their territory, and in the progress of the people. The influence of the whites was noted in the census reports and laws pertaining to landholding and agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

The Indian agent reported the agricultural conditions of the Indians to be very favorable in 1872. Thirty-five thousand acres of new land were put in cultivation that year. The tribe as a unit had more than 100,000 bushels of surplus corn, 10,000 bushels of wheat, 25,000 tons of hay, 75,000 hogs, 50,000 head of cattle, and 8,000 head of horses. In addition, the Indians had built 200,000 rods of new fences during the year.<sup>2</sup> Two years later these Indians produced 450,000 bushels of corn and made a proportionate increase in other crops. The amount of livestock, especially cattle, also increased. The agent

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<sup>1</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1875, pp. 12-13.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 126-127.



reported the Chickasaws to be the wealthiest tribe per capita of any, and he attributed their wealth partly to their employment of white labor and partly to their soil, "unsurpassed in richness, adapted to the growth of cotton and all sorts of grain, large and small."<sup>3</sup>

The production of field crops apparently was not stabilized, nor did it show an increase from year to year; neither did the production of livestock increase each year.<sup>4</sup> The report for 1879 showed the total yield of corn to be 420,000 bushels; oats, 20,000 bushels; vegetables, 40,000 bushels; hay, 15,000 tons. There were 7,000 horses, 1,500 mules, 75,000 cattle, 30,000 hogs, and 3,500 sheep.<sup>5</sup> The next year there were 10,000 acres of land broken in for cultivation. The corn yield increased to 500,000 bushels; the vegetable crops amounted to 40,000 bushels; the hay yield dropped to 12,000 tons; there were 10,000 horses, 77,000 cattle, and 100,000 hogs.<sup>6</sup> Bad climatic conditions were probably the cause of the decrease in yield of some of the field crops during the season of 1879, and a decrease in the yield of corn and other grains would necessarily cause a reduction in

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 1877, p. 110.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 1879, p. 250.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 251.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 1880, pp. 262-263.

the number of horses and hogs raised. By this time, too, cotton was becoming the chief crop of the Nation.<sup>7</sup>

In the early 1880's the Indians began to become interested in a new phase of agriculture - the production of butter. In 1883 they produced more than three hundred thousand pounds of butter. During the same year there were raised more than one hundred thousand head of cattle and one hundred and twenty thousand swine. The productions in grains, however, did not show a material increase,<sup>8</sup> and the chief products exported were horses, cattle, cotton, furs, and pecans. The livestock which was sold on the market was driven to a shipping point on the railroad or south to a market in Texas.<sup>9</sup>

About this time the Chickasaw legislature granted several men the privilege of erecting and operating gins in locations throughout the Nation.<sup>10</sup> A citizen was not required to obtain a grant from the national government to operate gins or sawmills.

In 1887 the Santa Fe railroad completed the laying of track across the Chickasaw Nation from Purcell on the north to a point south of Ardmore on the Red river. The Chickasaw officials were most cooperative, and the legis-

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., pp. 94-95.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., 1883, pp. 290-291.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., pp. 87-88.

<sup>10</sup>Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation, pp. 179-186.

lature authorized the selling to the Santa Fe of ties and other materials necessary to the construction of the road.<sup>11</sup> The completion of the railroad further revolutionized agriculture and society in the Nation. Immediately new towns came into existence, simultaneously creating new markets for farm products and new desires on the part of the inhabitants of the Nation.<sup>12</sup> The new towns built along the Santa Fe were Purcell, Wayne, Pauls Valley, Wynnewood, Davis, Ardmore, and Marietta. According to the census report of three years later, Ardmore had a population of 2,100; Purcell, 1,060; Wynnewood, 398; Pauls Valley, 206; Marietta, 110; Davis, 103; and Wayne, 95.<sup>13</sup> Other towns in the Nation not located on the Santa Fe were Chickasha with a population of 4,093; Tishomingo, 560; Colbert, 426; and Roff, 389.<sup>14</sup> There were in the Nation 76 post offices and a score of trading points besides the towns listed. The total number of persons in the Nation was 57,329, of which less than six thousand were Indians.<sup>15</sup>

The founding of Ardmore was due to the foresight of

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<sup>11</sup>House Ex. Doc. 1, part 5, 50 Cong., 1 sess., p. 200.

<sup>12</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1888, pp. lx-lxi.

<sup>13</sup>United States Census Report, 1890, X, 260.

<sup>14</sup>History of Indian Territory, pp. 194-202.

<sup>15</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1888, pp. 300-301.

Richard McLish, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. Mr. McLish with the aid of A. B. Roff and L. P. Adkins set aside land for a town site on the Santa Fe in 1887. The site chosen was one of natural advantages. It was in the center of a rich farming and ranching country. There was an outside market to the north and south. The town grew in size and importance from its beginning. It took the lead of all towns on the Santa Fe as well as throughout the Nation. In less than two years Ardmore had its school, drugstores, clothing establishments, hotels, rooming houses, hardware stores, jewelry shops, tailor shops, blacksmith shops, doctors, lawyers, and churches, and it had the first daily newspaper to be published in the Chickasaw Nation as well as in the entire Indian Territory. Soon fraternal orders were organized, and a bank was established. St. Agnes' Academy, a Catholic school for girls, was founded in Ardmore in 1889, and in 1900 the Indianola Business College was established, the first college of its kind in the Nation.

Ardmore soon took the lead as a cotton and livestock market. The trade territory extended many miles in all directions. There were cotton gins, compresses, oil mills, flour mills, several wholesale houses, and lumber yards in Ardmore by 1900.<sup>16</sup> An ice plant, an electric light system,

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<sup>16</sup>History of Indian Territory, pp. 190-194.

a laundry, and a telephone service were also available for the convenience of the inhabitants.

Cotton continued to be the chief crop of the Nation. In the year 1889 there were produced more than forty thousand bales, of which number seventeen thousand were marketed in Ardmore. The increasing importance of Ardmore as a cotton market is indicated by the fact that only 835 bales were marketed there three years previously. The trend toward the raising of cotton is accounted for in that most of the whites and negroes in the Nation came from Southern states, the soil was well suited to this crop, and the cotton seed could be used for feeding cattle.

Corn was the next most important money crop, for the Nation was a productive corn country. The land along the Washita river produced as much as eighty bushels to the acre. And in 1889 the price of corn was seventy-five cents per bushel, this high price being caused by a drought in parts of Texas and the eastern part of the Indian Territory.

The castor bean was cultivated on a fairly large scale, for several farmers had fields of one hundred and sixty acres each planted in this crop. The beans were marketed in Dallas, Texas, for an average price of two dollars per bushel. Melons, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, and other vegetables were grown for home use.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1889,  
pp. 303-304.

The creation of new towns throughout the Nation along the railroads was a stimulus to W. N. Taliaferro, who with his brother, Dorsey Taliaferro, owned more than twelve thousand acres of land lying adjacent to the new Frisco railroad. These men were considered among the most progressive citizens of the Nation, and both were inter-married citizens.<sup>18</sup> In 1900 W. N. Taliaferro set aside 1,280 acres of land for a town site on the new road with the hope that the town would compete with Ardmore and Durant as a marketing place for farm crops and livestock. This location was about twenty-eight miles east of Ardmore, on the Santa Fe, and about an equal distance from Durant, Choctaw Nation, on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad. Madill was carved out of ranchland and was well located as it was in the center of a rich farming and ranching area. The town was named in honor of Judge Madill of St. Louis. It had a population of fifteen hundred before it was two years old. Two cotton gins and an oil mill were built in 1900 to accommodate the cotton farmers of the area. The cotton shipped from this point totaled fifteen thousand bales the second ginning season. More than two thousand fat cattle and fifteen hundred hogs were also shipped to outside markets, for the country surrounding Madill was one of the best

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<sup>18</sup>Interview with George Taliaferro, son of W. N. Taliaferro, August 1, 1939.

cattle and hog producing districts of the Nation. The land is a rolling prairie of black, waxy soil well adapted to the production of corn, cotton, oats, and other grains. The trade territory of Madill extended south to the Red river, east to the Washita, west for fifteen to twenty miles, and north for a like distance. Many influential Chickasaws moved there to enter business and left their farms to be cared for by white renters. The favorable prospects for the success of the little city brought many people into the Nation to enter different phases of business.

The Rock Island Railroad Company completed the laying of track across the Chickasaw Nation in 1892. The road extended from a point north of Minco south to Ferral on the Red river and served a very productive section of the Nation. Enterprising and influential citizens along the western border of the Nation were interested in founding towns as markets and outlets for their products, and they were aided in their attempts by cooperative railroad officials and inter-married citizens.<sup>19</sup> As a result of their efforts many towns and villages sprang up following the laying of track. Chickasha, located in the fertile Washita valley, was founded the year previous to the railroad's coming. It soon grew in importance as a market for livestock and grain. Other towns which were located

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<sup>19</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1893, pp. 109-111.

on the Rock Island were Duncan, Marlow, Comanche, Sugden, and Waurika. All of these towns had the advantage of the trade of the Indians west of the ninety-eighth meridian as well as of the whites and citizens of the Chickasaw Nation.

The district lying between the Santa Fe and Rock Island railroads, since it was one of the most desirable in the Nation, soon was converted into farms and ranches. The educated and industrious citizens held hundreds of acres in this section by using white renters. Cotton produced on their farms was shipped south to Galveston for export after being ginned and sold on the local market. Grain, hay, and livestock were sold both on the local markets and in markets in the states, principally Fort Worth, St. Louis, and Kansas City, Missouri. The timber sold was ordinarily in the form of cross ties for railroad building and lumber for home and barn construction.<sup>20</sup>

The population of the towns grew rapidly, for the towns were composed mostly of whites who came to speculate, to set up in new businesses, or to drift from one town to another seeking work. The number of whites in the Nation was many times that of the Indians by 1896.

The influx of whites into the Nation was one of the

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<sup>20</sup>Ibid., 1894, pp. x-xiv.



chief causes for the Chickasaws' negotiating with the Dawes Commission. The Chickasaw legislature appointed representatives to meet with the commission and gave them power to sign agreements. On April 23, 1897, the Chickasaw delegates met with the commission and signed what is known as the Atoka agreement. The chief provisions of this agreement were as follows:

1. The Indians were to accept allotment of land on a fair and equitable basis, the land to be valued according to its fertility and location.
2. The allotments were to be non-taxable for twenty-one years or so long as they remained in the possession of the original allottees.
3. Each Indian was to choose a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres which could not be sold.
4. Surplus allotments might be sold under certain prescribed conditions.
5. Coal and mineral lands were not to be allotted.<sup>21</sup>

This agreement would place every Indian on his own farm, thereby breaking down to a great extent the system of large landholding. However, many of the citizens had large families, and this enabled the father to control both homesteads and surplus allotments of each child. Such an arrangement often gave one person control over

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<sup>21</sup>U. S. Stat. at Large, XXX, 495-499.

hundreds of acres of land until the children reached the age of maturity.

To strengthen the Atoka agreement, Congress passed a second law on June 28, 1898, known as the Curtis Act. This act provided for (1) creation of federal courts to supersede tribal courts; (2) surveying and platting of town sites; (3) sale of town lots to the public; (4) enrolling of all Indians and determining of citizenship; (5) leasing of mineral lands; (6) incorporation of cities and towns; (7) federal control of Indian schools; (8) per capita payments to individual Indians; (9) voiding of all agricultural leases to non-citizens; (10) giving of forty acres of land to all freedmen; and (11) appointing by the Secretary of the Interior or an Indian inspector for the Nation.<sup>22</sup>

The effects of this law were soon felt by the Indians. Thousands of whites and blacks came into the Nation claiming citizenship as a means of securing land. In 1898 there were seven and one-half thousand applications for citizenship in the Five Civilized tribes. Only 334, however, were able to prove their eligibility to share in the privileges of citizenship in the Chickasaw Nation.<sup>23</sup>

Those who failed to prove their citizenship usually

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<sup>22</sup>Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation, pp. 521-549.

<sup>23</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1898, pp. 1051-1058.

remained in the Nation, engaging in some business or becoming wage earners. After being in the Nation long enough to become acquainted with the conditions and people, many of the whites married Indians and became well-to-do citizens. This introduction of new people tended to the development of land and towns. New homes were built, new land was put into cultivation, and more crops were produced.<sup>24</sup>

The production of commercial fruits was on a sound basis before 1901. Apple, pear, and peach orchards were most common, and plums, grapes, and berries grew wild along the rivers and creeks. The fruit was sold in the local markets and shipped in car lots to the northern and eastern markets. Much of the fruit was dried or canned for home use.<sup>25</sup>

Conditions of living were very similar to those in the surrounding states. The same customs were followed, the same styles of clothes were worn, the same occupations were followed, and very little difference was noted in education of the whites and Indians. The homes of the better class of whites and Indians were very comfortable. Many of the houses were large two-story structures with wide porches on two or three sides. The farm homes were

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<sup>24</sup>Ibid., 1900, pp. 9-11.

<sup>25</sup>History of Indian Territory, pp. 83-84.

usually built on a hill or on high land about one hundred yards from the public road, and they usually had from seven to ten rooms.

The population of the Chickasaw Nation in 1900 was estimated by United States Indian Agent J. Blair Shoenfelt to be 149,760. Of this number of persons in the Nation, only six thousand were Chickasaws. The population of the Nation had increased 142.9 per cent from 1890 to 1900. With the opening of the twentieth century it was difficult to distinguish between those who were part Indian and those who were pure white.

The economic conditions were to a large extent stabilized throughout the Nation by 1901.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>Ibid., pp. 102-104.

III. Development From  
1901 to 1907

Events moved swiftly in the Chickasaw Nation after 1901. By the close of 1902 there had been surveyed and platted forty-two town sites with a population of more than five hundred each and fifty town sites with a population of more than two hundred and less than five hundred each. Those persons who had erected buildings in these towns were given first choice of purchase of the lots on which the improvements stood at a reduction of 50 per cent of the total appraised value of the land and improvements. As the towns were platted the lots were offered for sale to the public.<sup>1</sup> Many people came into the Nation during this period, Superintendent Benedict estimating that by 1902 there were ten times as many non-citizens in the Nation as there were citizens. The population had increased so much that many of the larger towns organized independent school systems which were maintained by local taxes, tuition, and fees received from the government for the schooling of Indian pupils.<sup>2</sup>

The development of lumbering, rock quarrying, and

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<sup>1</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1902, part 1, pp. 134-135.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 130-131.

asphalt mining had begun during the early nineties. During 1901 and 1902 the Chickasaws sold something like five million linear feet of heavy lumber for bridge construction for railroads. Cross ties brought in another nice sum of money to the national treasurer. The sale of crushed stone amounted to over one hundred thousand cubic yards, and more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of asphalt was sold.

The Arkansas and Choctaw railroad, which ran from east to west across the southern part of the Nation, was begun in 1902. The road entered the Nation four miles east of Durant and passed through Madill, Ardmore, and Sugden. Several small towns sprang up along the right-of-way, and hundreds of new people entered the Nation. There were 580 miles of railroad completed in the Nation by the end of the year 1902.<sup>3</sup>

The Chickasaw legislature passed an act on May 3, 1902, approved by the President of the United States on May 15, which permitted non-citizens to own and hold livestock within the borders of the Nation. The act as passed and approved permitted the Nation to collect a fee of twenty-five cents per head for all cattle, horses, and mules, and a fee of three cents per head for all sheep and goats of non-citizens. Two cows and calves and one team

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., part 2, p. 48.

of work animals were exempt from fees when owned and used by the head of a family.<sup>4</sup> The effects of this act were the increasing of the number of livestock and the number of persons interested in the production of livestock.

The Chickasaws did not begin allotment of lands as provided by the Atoka agreement until after 1902. The federal government and the Chickasaws signed in July of that year at Atoka a supplemental agreement which hastened the extinction of the tribal government. The chief provisions of this agreement were (1) immediate allotment of land to all Chickasaws; (2) allotment of land to Chickasaw freedmen; (3) sale of all land not allotted or segregated; (4) allotment to each citizen of land valued at \$1041.28; (5) establishment of a land office in the Chickasaw Nation; (6) release of all land held by citizens in excess of the value of an allotment.<sup>5</sup> The land had been surveyed and appraised according to fertility and location. There were nine different grades of land with values ranging from twenty-five cents to \$6.50 per acre.<sup>6</sup>

The rapid immigration of the whites may be estimated by the number of town lots sold and the amounts received from this source and also by the amount of fees the Nation received for livestock held by non-citizens. In

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., pp. 378-380.

<sup>5</sup>U. S. Stat. at Large, XXXI, 221-225.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., XXXII, 841.

1903 there were town lots sold to the value of \$337,427. The Nation collected in the same year more than thirty thousand dollars in fees for something like two hundred thousand head of livestock belonging to non-citizens. During the year the Nation had a total revenue from the sale of coal, asphalt, and timber of more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.<sup>7</sup>

The larger towns, those with a population of two thousand or more, were permitted to vote bonds for the construction of sanitation systems, lighting plants, water works, and school buildings. Every city in the Nation that could qualify voted bonds for these purposes in 1902 and 1903. This action brought in many non-citizens who engaged in the work of constructing permanent improvements in all the larger towns.<sup>8</sup> Telephone and telegraph lines were extended to all the larger towns and most of the smaller hamlets. The companies paid a rental fee of \$3.50 per mile of line used. There were 130 incorporated towns in the Nation by the close of the fiscal year 1904. The sale of town lots alone brought to the tribe the sum of one hundred and thirty thousand dollars for the year.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1903, pp. 206-212.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 501.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., 1905, part 2, pp. 217-218.



The granite quarries north of Tishomingo were also being developed, and much building stone was being used in Tishomingo and sent to the larger nearby towns. More than half a million dollars worth of public buildings were erected in the Nation during the year 1904.<sup>10</sup>

The production of field crops was gradually increasing as the demand for them increased. The resources of the Nation were by this time many and diversified, but its principal crops were still cotton, hay, wheat, and corn. Crop failures were unheard of. Coal and asphalt mines were being developed in new areas, and their production was likewise increased. The sale of posts for fencing, lumber for building purposes, and ties and bridge timbers for railroad improvement brought in considerable funds to the land owners.<sup>11</sup>

As the larger towns grew in size and population, more industries were created. Madill, Ardmore, Ada, Chickasha, Duncan, and Pauls Valley had flour mills, cotton compresses, oil mills, planing mills, sash and door factories, mattress factories, ice plants, and many minor industries. Scores of the smaller towns had cotton gins, grist mills, and saw mills. Wholesale houses were located in the principal towns.

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid., pp. 238-241.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., pp. 201-211.

The production of broom corn on a commercial scale began in the district surrounding Lindsay. The farmers and ranchers began to grow canes and sorghums for feed for livestock. As the land was pastured more heavily, supplemental feed crops had to be produced. The raising of mules and horses for market was another source of revenue to the people of the Nation.<sup>12</sup>

On April 21, 1904, the federal government passed a law allowing non-restricted Indians to sell all or any part of their surplus allotments. This act was passed to further the ownership of land by the whites and to aid in the development of the resources of the Nation.<sup>13</sup> More than 95 per cent of the Indians had received title to their allotments by June 30, 1904. The increased sale of surplus land continued as rapidly as the unrestricted Indians were permitted to transfer title. Then, too, it was permissible for a parent to rent or lease the allotments of minor children for a period of five years with the privilege of renewing the lease until the minor attained the age of maturity. The Indian agent received more than one thousand applications for the sale of surplus land from members of the Chickasaw tribe before the beginning of the fiscal year 1905. Many of the requests

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<sup>12</sup>History of Indian Territory, pp. 191-197.

<sup>13</sup>U. S. Stat. at Large, XXXIII, 188-189.

to sell land were refused, but many were granted so that other lands could be improved by the proceeds of the sale. Practically all of the land sold was to non-citizens.<sup>14</sup>

The Department of the Interior ruled that an individual Indian who had title to land on which a railroad station had been located might have the land surveyed and sold as town lots. This was made necessary by the influx of whites and the creation of new industries. This ruling permitted the founding of several towns to be used as shipping points for lumber, livestock, gravel and stone, and farm crops.<sup>15</sup>

As the enrollment of the Indians neared completion, more lands were prepared for cultivation. At least 85 per cent of the adult Indians were on their lands and engaged actively in the production of livestock and farm crops. As the individual Indians fenced their farms, the number of cattle raised each year decreased, and there was a corresponding reduction in revenue from this source.<sup>16</sup>

The tax on non-citizens' stock for 1905 amounted only to \$8440.50 so that there were only about forty thousand head of non-citizen stock in the Nation. This reduction in the number of livestock was largely caused by the breaking

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<sup>14</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1905, part 2, pp. 270-271.

<sup>15</sup>House Doc. 5, 58 Cong., 3 sess., pp. 112-113.

<sup>16</sup>Sen. Report 5013, part 1, 59 Cong., 2 sess., pp. 1131-1134.

down of the system of large landholding through the use of white and negro renters. The whites who could buy or lease land were doing so and farming for themselves.<sup>17</sup>

On March 2, 1906, Congress in a joint resolution passed an act to close the rolls of the Chickasaw Nation and liquidate all Indian affairs preparatory to the Chickasaw Nation's becoming a part of the new State of Oklahoma.<sup>18</sup> The people had foreseen the likelihood of the extinguishing of the tribal government for several years so that the every-day life of the people of the Nation was little changed by the prospect of becoming citizens of a state.<sup>19</sup>

The discovery of oil in the vicinity of Madill hastened the development of that district. J. George Wright testified before a Senate committee in 1906 that there were several oil wells in the Madill area and in the area west of Ardmore, at Wheeler. However, the oil was not in quantities great enough at that time to warrant extensive investments in drilling machinery. The interest in the oil boom did, however, bring many people into the Nation with a resultant demand for land for speculative purposes and for agricultural uses.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>House Doc. 5, 59 Cong., 1 sess., pp. 774-775.

<sup>18</sup>Sen. Report 5013, part 2, 59 Cong., 2 sess., pp. 2087-2088.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., part 1, p. 442.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 449.

The commission completed the enrollment of the Chickasaws and allotting by June 30, 1906. The Indians and whites were clamoring for the federal government to sell the surplus unallotted lands, and the commission was doing all in its power to push the sale of town lots. Of the 131 town sites located, there had been sold every lot in 23, and in many of them more than three-fourths of the lots had been sold.<sup>21</sup> During the latter half of 1906 and the first half of 1907 more than one million acres of unallotted land were sold by the commission at public auction to the highest bidder. This amount does not include the nearly thirteen thousand town lots for which the Nation received over two hundred thousand dollars.

The types of livestock were gradually changing from the scrub to the standard breeds. In the earlier days the cattle were more or less of the longhorn breed, but in 1906 and 1907 they were being replaced by the shorthorn, white face, roan and red Durhams, and Jersey. The number of large pastures was growing smaller as rapidly as the landowners could fence in their farms. Breeders of better hogs, horses, and mules were to be found in every community. Imported sires of every type of farm animal were very common.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>House Doc. 5, 59 Cong., 1 sess., pp. 608-609.

<sup>22</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1907, part 2, pp. 662-663.

There were more than two hundred day schools open to both Indians and whites in the Nation. The number of white pupils was twenty times as great as the number of Indians, indicative of the ratio of the white to the Indian population. The Indians' boarding schools and day schools were closed on March 4, 1907. There were a few private boarding schools open to both races, but the number of Indians in these was far less than that of the whites.<sup>23</sup>

The restrictions imposed by the federal government on oil promoters for drilling were such that the development of oil was delayed. The government would not allow any person or company to lease land from an Indian unless that person or company was financially able to finance drilling operations and would agree to complete the drilling of a well within twelve months of the time the lease had been approved by the Department of the Interior. The Department received fifty-one applications for oil leases in 1906, but only thirty of them were approved. The interest in the production of oil in the Chickasaw Nation was stimulated by oil production in other sections of the Indian Territory.<sup>24</sup>

The number of public schools had increased in 1907

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<sup>23</sup>Ibid., pp. 336-338.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., pp. 376-377.

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to 409. The enrollment of white children in them was 21,190.<sup>25</sup> The educational system was firmly established to care for the needs of the children of the Nation. The management of the schools had been assumed by the federal government through the supervision of the Department of the Interior. The Chickasaws did not favor this change from tribal to federal control, but they were apparently unable successfully to cope with the problem unaided. It appeared that the government was the proper agency if the Nation was to continue to prosper and maintain its economic place in the Indian Territory.

Superintendent Benedict reported conditions to be very favorable in 1906 and 1907. There were only 1,538 full-blood Indians in the Nation and about two hundred thousand whites and mixed bloods. There were hundreds of new homes to be seen, and thousands of acres of new land were being prepared for cultivation. The crops had been above average in yield per acre, with increased acreage.<sup>26</sup> There was a general air of satisfaction and prosperity throughout the Nation. Every farm home had its own hogs for breeding purposes, for home use, and for sale on the markets. In addition to field crops, there were cattle, poultry, fruits, and vegetables on each farm. Each com-

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<sup>25</sup>Ibid., pp. 200-201.

<sup>26</sup>House Doc. 5, 58 Cong., 3 sess., pp. 111-112.

munity had its syrup mill where syrup or molasses was made for table use. The towns were in as prosperous conditions as were the rural communities. There were improvement projects under construction in every town and city. These consisted of the building of new homes, schools, hospitals, business houses, wholesale houses, sanitation systems, factories, lumber yards, telephone and telegraph systems, railroads, paved streets, lighting systems, and countless other projects which demanded labor and raw and finished materials. The demand for labor, both skilled and unskilled, was so great that workmen came in from other sections of the territory and states to aid in the developing of the industries. Roads were opened on the section lines, bridges were built across the smaller streams, and fords and ferries were constructed for the crossing of the rivers. The presence of professional persons, such as lawyers, doctors, dentists, and druggists, was welcomed by the people. The population felt secure under the protection of the federal courts and marshals. The people, as a rule, were peaceful and law abiding.<sup>27</sup>

The stranger, on coming into the Nation at the close of this period of tremendous development, would have become at once aware of a stepping-up of energy, a bustle around him, a feeling of optimism. Everything seemed

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<sup>27</sup>Francis E. Leupp, The Indian and His Problem (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910), pp. 338-342.



new - the roads, the buildings. The same advantages and conveniences were to be had here as in the older communities of the states. Men venturing into the Nation continued to find themselves well on the road to wealth; a man could rise to prominence and prosperity quickly as the opportunities were many.<sup>28</sup> While there was a diversity of climate, soil, and vegetation, this region was essentially a plains area suitable for homemaking and comfortable living. So when the white men were finally being permitted to buy Indian land, economic development was rapid, and the Nation became one of the busiest and most thriving sections of the Indian Territory.

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<sup>28</sup>Daily Oklahoman, April 23, 1939, section 3, pp. 4-5.

### Conclusion

The period from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of statehood in Oklahoma was one of great economic development for the Chickasaw Nation. Many factors contributed to this development, but of primary importance were the Nation's agricultural productivity, the coming of the railroads, the influx of the whites, and the sale of land. These factors were not independent of each other; rather, they were interdependent, for the productivity of the soil brought the whites, the whites brought the railroads, the railroads brought more whites and an increased agricultural productivity, and finally the whites brought a strong demand for the sale of land.

The Indians were agriculturists, and their land was good. They raised many crops but directed most of their energies to the production of cotton, wheat, and corn and to the raising of livestock. The agricultural wealth of the Nation attracted many white men, who often, in order to become Chickasaw citizens with full rights to the land, married Indian women. Other white men came in to work for the citizens, who were enabled vastly to enlarge their holdings and increase their production and consequently to advance their economic status.

The increase in farming gradually brought a need for outside markets, and the railroads began shortly after the Civil War to take care of that need. The rich farming territory attracted to it several railroad lines which served not only to take crops and livestock to Eastern and Northern markets but also to bring the comforts of civilization to the Nation.

Many whites entered the Nation to work on the railroads, and many more came in to establish businesses in the many towns that quickly sprang up along the lines. Others brought herds of cattle and other livestock and for a moderate rental were allowed to graze their animals on the tribal lands. Still others began to exploit the mineral deposits within the Nation as well as timber, stone, and other building materials. Commerce flourished, and the Nation prospered.

The whites did not long remain content to dwell on lands they did not own. They soon began clamoring to the federal government to allow the Indians to sell their lands. The Indians also were eager to exchange their lands for money and the things money would buy. In response, therefore, to the very popular demand, the Federal government began allotting to the Indians the land once held in common so as to enable each Indian to

have both his own homestead and surplus allotments which could be sold. The early years of the twentieth century found the Indian lands passing rapidly into the hands of the whites, who continued to swarm into the territory. Increased numbers of landholders brought rapid development of the countryside and rapid assimilation of the Indians, for with the coming of statehood the Chickasaws lost their identity as a Nation and became one with the great new commonwealth.

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## APPENDIX

### Questionnaires Answered

1. Name - R. D. McDougall
2. Address - Madill, Oklahoma
3. When were you born? - Aug. 8, 1857  
Where? - Lottadell County, Alabama
4. When did you settle in the Chickasaw Nation? -  
Feb., 1872. Where? - Woodville is now
5. What was the chief occupation of your district?
  - a. 1880 - Cattle Raising.
  - b. 1890 - Farming, leasing to whites on 10 year leases.
  - c. 1900 - Town building began with railroad building.
  - d. 1907 - Small farms, many new occupations.
6. Name five large landholders in the Chickasaw Nation.
  - a. Ben Barney
  - b. Sob Lewis
  - c. Hamp Willis
  - d. Frank Murray
  - e. Jim Bounds
7. Give dates when and by whom towns near you were founded.
  - a. Old Woodville, 1870, three-quarters of a mile south of new Woodville.
  - b. New Woodville, 1901
  - c. Oakland, 1870
  - d. Lebanon
  - e. Willis
8. How many whites were there in your district in proportion to the number of Indians?
  - a. 1880 - 3 Indians to 1 white
  - b. 1890 - 1 Indian to 3 whites
  - c. 1900 - 1 Indian to 8 or 10 whites
  - d. 1908 - 1 Indian to 15 or 20 whites
9. What and when were industries, other than agriculture, begun in your district? Soon after 1901 a new method of farming began. Oil was discovered near Madill in 1906. Much building from 1901 to 1908.

10. Give brief account of the development of oil in your district. Oil was found near Madill and west of Ardmore, but very little was done to develop the fields. Some gas was discovered and used in the Madill field.
11. Were you opposed to statehood? Yes.  
Give reasons for your answer. A different type of citizens would come in. All honest people had a shotgun law. No notes or mortgages, all debts paid. Coming of whites would cause the Indians to lose their lands, and a new order of things would come. I was a United States Marshall from 1875 to 1889 and felt that the Indians would be better off if left alone.
12. What other interesting information can you give of Chickasaw history prior to statehood? Conditions were fine before statehood. Payment of debts was good in 1898, not a penny lost. No notes or debts lost prior to statehood. Was in general mercantile business from 1900 to 1905 for five years. Never lost any money until statehood. Old Indian fort about seven miles south of Madill had an old Indian court house, only tried Indians; tree still stands which they whipped the Indians on. Now the Will Smith farm. This court was used by Indians only.

1. Name - Tom Christian
2. Address - Madill, Oklahoma
3. When were you born? - Dec. 25, 1872.  
Where? - Woodville, Oklahoma.
4. When did you settle in the Chickasaw Nation? 1872.  
Where? Woodville.
5. What was the chief occupation of your district?
  - a. 1880 - Agriculture and stock raising.
  - b. 1890 - Same as above.
  - c. 1900 - Quite a lot of town building began in 1901.
  - d. 1907 - Some oil, diversified farming.
6. Name five large landholders in the Chickasaw Nation.
  - a. Holmes Willis
  - b. Simon Keel
  - c. Jerome Whitsell



- d. William Guy
  - e. Ed Love
7. Give dates when and by whom towns near you were founded.
- a. Woodville, John Fullington, 1870
  - b. Madill, 1901
  - c. Alesworth
  - d. Oakland, 1870
8. How many whites were there in your district in proportion to the number of Indians?
- a. 1880 - 1 Indian to 2 whites
  - b. 1890 - 4 whites to each Indian
  - c. 1900 - 10 whites to each Indian
  - d. 1908 - 20 whites to each Indian
9. What and when were industries, other than agriculture, begun in your district? Railroad building, town improvement, factories, and mills were beginning to be built soon after 1900. Many new people came. Land improvement also.
10. Give brief account of the development of oil in your district. Oil was found near Madill and Wheeler about 1906. There was not much done about it as leases were difficult to obtain and promoters did not push the development.
11. Were you opposed to statehood? No.  
Give reasons for your answer. Just wanted it so that all would have an equal chance to own property, get an education, be on equal footing in every respect.
12. What other interesting information can you give of Chickasaw history prior to statehood? Prior to statehood along the Red River at Willis, I.T., much liquor smuggling was going on, transporting hard liquors from Texas across the river to the Indians. Many criminals came into Indian Territory from Texas, but were soon killed or run out of the nation. Another interesting incident was the coming of the Frisco Railroad in 1900 through the Chickasaw Nation, which caused Kingston to be moved three miles to the railway. The coming of the railroad caused many new people to enter the nation. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Chickasaws as a separate nation. However, we were ready to take our place in the new state.

1. Name - F. J. Buck
2. Address - Kingston, Oklahoma
3. When were you born? April 12, 1877.  
Where? Grayson County, Texas.
4. When did you settle in the Chickasaw Nation? 1890.  
Where? Willis.
5. What was the chief occupation of your district?
  - a. 1880 - Cattle raising and farming.
  - b. 1890 - Cattle raising and farming.
  - c. 1900 - Cattle raising and farming.
  - d. 1907 - Cattle raising and farming.
6. Name five large landholders in the Chickasaw Nation.
  - a. Holmes Willis
  - b. Britt Willis
  - c. John Woody
  - d. Jim Bounds
  - e. Nob and Dos Taliaferro
7. Give dates when and by whom towns near you were founded.
  - a. Kingston, 1900
  - b. Madill, 1900
  - c. Oakland, 1900
  - d. Ardmore, 1887
8. How many whites were there in your district in proportion to the number of Indians?
  - a. 1880 - about even
  - b. 1890 - 1 Indian to 2 whites
  - c. 1900 - 1 Indian to 5 whites
  - d. 1908 - 1 Indian to 20 whites
9. What and when were industries, other than agriculture, begun in your district? Stock raising on smaller scale began in 1903. Town improvement began in 1900; railroad, 1900-1904.
10. Give brief account of the development of oil in your district. 1906-1907 gas field at Enos, Oklahoma, near Madill, but not in large quantities.
11. Were you opposed to statehood? No.  
Give reasons for your answer. Give whites better chance to own land and better courts. Gave us churches, schools, and better roads. Law enforcement was better after statehood. It meant that all men would have an equal opportunity in the new state.

1. Name - W. F. Morgan
2. Address - Madill, Oklahoma
3. When were you born? Feb. 14, 1874.  
Where? Union, Mississippi.
4. When did you settle in the Chickasaw Nation? 1898.  
Where? Weaverton.
5. What was the chief occupation of your district?
  - a. 1880 - General agriculture and cattle business.
  - b. 1890 - No change in industries.
  - c. 1900 - Towns began to build; new people came.
  - d. 1907 - Oil discovered near Madill. Much improvement going on; railroad building began.
6. Name five large landholders in the Chickasaw Nation.
  - a. Holmes Willis
  - b. Jim Bounds
  - c. Loone Eastwood
  - d. B. M. Byrnum
  - e. George McDougal
7. Give dates when and by whom towns near you were founded.
  - a. Madill, Bob Taliferro
  - b. Willis, Holmes Willis
  - c. Ardmore, Richard McLish
  - d. McMillian, George McMillian
  - e. Holder, George Holder
8. How many whites were there in your district in proportion to the number of Indians?
  - a. 1880 - about even
  - b. 1890 - 2 whites to each Indian
  - c. 1900 - 10 whites to 1 Indian
  - d. 1908 - 20 whites to each Indian
9. What and when were industries, other than agriculture, begun in your district? Soon after the building of the Frisco railroad many new industries sprang up, such as cotton mills, compress, town improvements, oil, etc.
10. Give brief account of the development of oil in your district. Arbuckle field one and one-half miles north-east of Madill started in 1900, but the amount of oil was small. Gas was discovered and used.

11. Were you opposed to statehood? No.  
Give reasons for your answer. For better laws would be had better schools; then the land would be thrown on the market so that everyone could own a home either in town or country. The entire nation would be developed, which would be better for the Indians and whites.

1. Name - J. Hamp Willis
2. Address - Kingston, Oklahoma
3. When were you born? 1873.  
Where? On Red River where Willis is now.
4. When did you settle in the Chickasaw Nation. Born here.  
Where? Willis.
5. What was the chief occupation of your district?
  - a. 1880 - Cattle raising and agriculture.
  - b. 1890 - Cattle raising and agriculture.
  - c. 1900 - Cattle raising and agriculture.
  - d. 1907 - Cattle raising and agriculture.
6. Name five large landholders in the Chickasaw Nation.
  - a. Jerry Washington
  - b. Sob Love
  - c. George Yarborough
  - d. Frank Murray
  - e. Smith Paul
7. Give dates when and by whom towns near you were founded.
  - a. Willis, 1882, after Willis
  - b. Kingston, 1892, King
  - c. New Kingston, 1901, Kings Chapel
  - d. Madill, 1900, Judge Madill
  - e. Ardmore, 1887, named after official of Santa Fe
8. How many whites were there in your district in proportion to the number of Indians?
  - a. 1880 - 1 and 1
  - b. 1890 - 2 to 1
  - c. 1900 - 10 whites to 1 Indian
  - d. 1908 - 20 whites to 1 Indian
9. What and when were industries, other than agriculture, begun in your district? After 1900 there were many

new industries in the nation - railroad building, town improvements, cotton oil mills and compress, telegraph and telephone building, etc.

10. Give brief account of the development of oil in your district. We did not have much oil in the Chickasaw Nation until after 1907. There was some oil found near Madill and west of Ardmore, but not developed.
11. Were you opposed to statehood? Yes.  
Give reasons for your answer. Thought it would be best for Indians to remain as it was. Morally and physically the Indians would have been much better off. They held property in common and could not dispose of property. Then there were none who were rich nor were there any poor Indians. Everything was peaceful.
12. What other interesting information can you give of Chickasaw history prior to statehood? One of the most interesting things to me was the lack of confusion and lawlessness due to the incoming of such a great number of whites during the period from 1895 to statehood. The manner in which the intruders were assimilated by the tribal forces and the acceptance of the Indians of the presence of the whites were very unusual.

The efficiency of the United States courts and marshalls kept down law violations to a low point. In fact, there was better order then than now. It seems to me the people, as a whole, worked together with less envy and hate then than they do now. We helped each other with house and barn building, without pay. We often cultivated the crops of a sick friend or neighbor.

Our social affairs were quiet and peaceful. Our school system was fairly efficient. We were as well prepared for statehood as any other section of Oklahoma, even though many of us opposed the idea. We accepted conditions as we found them.

Typist

Earl Oliver