

HUNTER, A.

INTERVIEW

#4171

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

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Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse

This report made on (date) May 25, 1937

1. Name Mr. A. Hunter

2. Post Office Address Duncan, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Same

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1873

5. Place of birth Kentucky

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

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

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Warren D. Morse, Interviewer.  
May 25, 1937.

Interview with A. Hunter.  
Duncan, Oklahoma.

I made the run of '89 on top of a passenger train.  
The line of starting was Purcell on the south side  
of the river.

There were buggies, wagons, people on horses and  
on foot at this place besides the train ready to carry  
people across when the signal was given. Many had been  
here for several days waiting for the "great day". They  
were a jolly sort. They had lots of fun talking and  
planning.

~~When the gun was fired at noon there was a mad~~  
scramble to cross the river and those afoot swam the  
river. They had somewhat the advantage over those who  
went in buggies and wagons because those who had some  
way of travel outran those on foot who stopped at the  
first claim they came to that had no stake or flag raised  
on it. All the homesteaders carried stakes and when a  
settler came to a claim he or she placed this stake in  
the center and raised a flag.

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Usually two homesteaders would go together and one stayed at the claim while the other went to register. There were soldiers patrolling the grounds to keep down quarrels.

Two men wanted the same ground. One man had water and other did not. It seemed that the one without water got there before the other one did, so he told the man if he would give him his keg of water that he could have the land because he could get another claim. A dispute was settled and a probable killing averted by the trade.

Oklahoma City grew to be a large place by four o'clock, although it was mostly of tents.

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Passenger trains brought scores of people in, while freight trains brought household goods of all kinds besides whiskey and ice.

Water was needed badly.

Everyone was interested in eating and drinking. Some started a kind of business right off. People

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backed their wagon up and stretched wagon sheets and started cooking.

Most of Oklahoma City was on Reno, California and Grand Avenues then. The ground where two large hotels are now lay unclaimed for a long time. No one ever thought then that Oklahoma City might get to be as large as it is now.

I was not old enough to get a claim then although I could have secured the ground later but I was just a happy-go-lucky fellow and did not care.

I made several trips over Oklahoma even going into the Cherokee Country when it opened but I never stayed.

I used to stand up on the back part of a buggy and swim the horses into the river.

It was cattle that gave people trouble. Lots of cattle were lost when they started milling in the stream.

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After the opening of the Cherokee Strip when there was an opening they would draw claims by number. This was done when the Comanche Country was opened.

Even after that people left their claims because they had nothing to live on. There were no bridges from a trading point.