

SEABOCH, C. P.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Biography History - Project No. 57 (Oklahoma)

SEABOCH, G. F. INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Robert W. Small

This report made on (date) December 11, 1937 193

1. Name C. F. Seaboch

2. Post Office Address Blackwell, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 321 E. Oklahoma Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 15, Year 1863

5. Place of birth North Carolina

6. Name of Father G. W. Seaboch Place of birth North Carolina

7. Name of Mother: Recedia Coovey Seaboch Place of birth North Carolina

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Field Worker, Robert W. Small  
December 11, 1937.

Interview with G. I. Seaboch,  
Blackwell, Oklahoma.

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I was born September 15, 1863, in North Carolina, in which state my parents were born also. In 1885, my family moved to Sumner County, Kansas, where I lived until the year 1893.

My first trip into the Indian country was made in 1887, when I went down to the Foss Ranch to take a bunch of cattle to put on the grass pastures. At this time the country was one vast expanse of prairie land covered with cattle and here and there over the ranches could be seen corrals and cattle pens. No houses were seen anywhere on the route I traveled, although most big ranches were known to have dugouts or places for their cowboys and other workers to live in.

In 1889, I with four other men and two wagons and teams, set out to get a claim in the Indian country near Guthrie, which was about to be opened for settlement. When we arrived at the banks of the Chikaskia River just east of the present

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city limits of Blackwell, we found the river was up and no bridges or ferryboats on the stream anywhere so we went to South Haven, Kansas, and bought enough lumber to build a row boat which we hauled back to the river bank and constructed a boat of sufficient size that, by taking our wagons to pieces and taking a few pieces at a time, and also taking our provisions for the trip and the harness of our teams, we finally got all safely across the river except our teams which had to swim the river. A number of wagons and teams and near one hundred people were camped on the river banks waiting for the river to run down; some men were building a flat boat or ferry boat at the time that we were there and had it completed about the time we left and had ferried a wagon or two over for which service they charged as high as \$5.00 for some teams and wagons.

After crossing the Chikaskia River, we went to the Yellow Bull crossing on the Salt Fork River and crossed it at that point and proceeded on south along a southwesterly course over the country until we reached the country

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that was being opened to settlement. We camped a day or two on Skeleton Creek and killed a few wild turkeys and saw five deer in one bunch but didn't kill any. We were near Kingfisher in our travels about the country, also.

I didn't like the country as well as I did the Cherokee Outlet and I decided to await the opening of the Cherokee country. Some of my company were of the same mind, although two of our number took claims in that section and made homes there.

In the opening of the Cherokee Outlet another man and I made the race in a spring wagon from east of Hunkewell, Kansas, and although we bumped over the prairies as fast as we could the swifter horsemen left us so far in the rear that I got no claim. However, I bought a man out in a short time for \$100.00 and placed my filing on the Southwest Quarter of Section 13, Twp. 27., Range 1 est. I built a small house, 14 x 20 feet, made some sheds for stock and dug a well that is still in use today, furnishing an abundance of good water.

I put out an orchard in the spring of 1894 of all kind.

of fruit and also had different kinds of berries and most every variety of fruit bore abundantly for a number of years.

My grain crops were of little consequence until 1897 when the country experienced its first bumper crop. In 1898 I raised seventy bushels of corn per acre on some school land that I had leased, which was the best corn crop I ever raised.

I raised cattle, hogs and horses in addition to my farming activities and have been very prosperous through the years since 1897. My old claim that I still own now has an eight-room modern residence, large barns and other buildings of various kinds. About ten years ago my barn was destroyed by a tornado but I again rebuilt it.

In the early years I have sold hogs for as little as 2¢, 3¢ or 4¢ per pound and good cows for \$10.00 to \$15.00 each, but everything I had to buy was also cheap and my living expenses were very light compared to late years.

In 1923 I left the farm, moving into Blackwell and now reside in a well-furnished home at 321 East Oklahoma Avenue.