

SMITH, FRED

INTERVIEW.

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May 14, 1937

Biographic sketch.

Interview with Fred Smith, age 70, a pioneer living at 118 S. Independence Street, Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Fred Smith was born in Madison County, Illinois, July 6, 1866.

He went with his father and mother, W. A. Smith and Polly Smith to Monroe, Mo., by train. From there to Vinita, Oklahoma in 1889.

They lived there one year. His father made a contract to carry the mail from Sapulpa to the Sac & Fox Agency to Sapulpa. He carried it one year by team and buggy.

Their first house in Sapulpa was a log cabin, north of the Sapulpa freight depot, then called Antone's Stockade. Later they ran the Smith Hotel on North Main Street. He also ran the Smith livery stable adjoining a blacksmith shop.

The first school was taught in Smith's livery barn by Cassie Meadows. The student body consisted of six or seven pupils.

They came by covered wagon from Missouri to Vinita and to Sapulpa in a covered wagon.

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He was one of the first to run a transfer wagon in Sapulpa.

He was also one of the early barbers in Sapulpa at Smith Hotel. He barbered Cherokee Bill and Bob Cook. After he cut Cook's hair one day, Cook left the Barber Shop and ran into Capt. Jess Allen of the Indian police, who arrested and took him to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The South Methodist Church was built on South Main Street, four blocks from Dewey Street.

The Indians came in and sold sides of deer and pecans, trading them for groceries in the store. Their main crop was corn. They pastured their cattle on open range. The cattle came from Texas ranches to be fattened. They were shipped from Red Fork because the yards here did not furnish the amount of cars needed.

Logs were shipped out of here brought from the Deep Fork bottoms.

John and Burt Buffington ran the first Undertaking Parlor in Sapulpa.

Mr. Smith was transfer man for seventeen years at other times he worked in the oil fields. His son, Jim Smith, was the first boy born in Sapulpa.