

SOLOMON, ALMER

SECOND INTERVIEW

4888

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BIOGRAPHIC WORKS
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
~~Indian Pioneer History Unit for Oklahoma~~

SOLOMON, ELMER

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Field Worker's Name Louise S. BarnesThis report made on (date) July 20, 1937

1. Name Elmer Solomon
2. Post Office Address Winglisher, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 413 South 9th Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: 14 November 1876 Year 1876
5. Place of birth Verden

6. Name of Father E. W. Solomon Place of birth Palmyra, Illinois
Other information about father Ran a Furniture and Shoe Store
7. Name of Mother Lucy McPherison Place of birth Palmyra, Illinois
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 4

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Louise S. Barnes,
Field Worker,
July 20, 1937.

An Interview with
Elmer Solomon,
413 South 9th Street,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Mr. Elmer Solomon is now postmaster of Kingfisher. When he was a youth of sixteen years, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Strip was opened up for settlement. They lined up about one and one-half miles west of what is now known as Kingfisher and Mr. Solomon stood about three miles northwest of Kingtown, now Kingfisher. He states this was something he will always remember. Men and women with their children ready to make the run, in all kinds of conveyances, horse-back, wagons, walking, etc.

They had soldiers stationed along the line in order to keep the people back until the signal was given at the noon hour.

CHEROKEE STRIP

The night before the Cherokee Strip was opened, Mr. Solomon spent in Hennessey with his father, who was going to make the run horse-back. They slept on a pile of lumber.

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On September 16, 1893, he and three friends were on a freight train, which was making the run. This train consisted of twenty cattle cars, each having a large feed coop on top that would hold as many people as the car itself. This train went slow enough that the people could jump off and stake their claims as they found a desirable tract.

KINGFISHER

When he came to Kingfisher in October after the opening on April 22, 1889, there was only one frame building and it stood where the post office is now located; this building was occupied by four land office clerks.

It was estimated there were ten thousand people in Kingfisher that night. The first post office, called Elizabeth, still stands.

One branch of the Chisholm Trail crossed Kingfisher on 8th Street. The trail can still be found; it runs through the high school grounds.

Tracks of the old ford north of Kingfisher can still be seen.

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The town was settled largely by people from western Kansas, and they were very hard up for food, so it was necessary for the Government to issue such provisions to them as corn meal, grease, beans, bacon, and salt. This was issued on what is now called West Miles Street.

Some of the streets are still named for old settlers: Roberts Avenue- first Register of Land; Admirer- first Receiver; Miles-Captain in charge of the soldiers; Wyatt- first Sheriff.

Seay, from this town, was appointed governor and his home still stands. He is buried in the Kingfisher Cemetery.

Kingfisher was voted to be the Capital of the Oklahoma Territory by the result of a trade with Oklahoma City. It passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Steele.

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The night the bill was passed/~~fired~~ anvils all night long, but the night the governor vetoed the bill, someone hung the governor in effigy and shot the effigy.

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The old tower well of Ringfisher used to stand where Highway # 33 now crosses Main Street. All the water used for household purposes was sold from a water wagon at 5 ¢ a bucket. No water was wasted. Saturdays the water bill was always higher.