

STAFFORD, TINE INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker: Goldie Turner
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Interview with Mr. Tine Stafford,
Maramec, Oklahoma.

Mr. Stafford was born in Indiana in 1870. He came to Oklahoma in the spring of 1900.

My mother was in the race and took up a claim. In the winter of 1900 the family took measles and pneumonia and all were sick at the same time. My mother wrote for me to come, so with my wife and child we started out from Kansas and came down here. The day after we arrived my sister and her small child died from the measles, their deaths being only a few hours apart.

We decided to stay and I bought a little building and a set of blacksmith tools and started a little blacksmith shop on my mother's farm. I had a good business. The next year Mr. Donnell, who lived in the section east of mother's farm, decided to make his farm in to a townsite. He had it surveyed and divided off in to lots. He came to me and told me that he would give me two lots in the new town if I would move my shop there.

I accepted and moved my shop. Mr. Caldwell then from Pawnee came down, bought several lots in the new townsite, and erected a large stone building, which he stocked with groceries. A postoffice was established in the store and was called Valley. A one-room country school was erected just west of the store but no other buildings were ever put up. Even when the railroad was put through a few years later, no other business buildings were put in. I had a good business, especially when the railroad was going through. It ran about a half mile to the west of Valley. The store building is still standing, although groceries were sold there only a few years; but the postoffice and one rural route were there until the last year or so.

In 1904, when the town of Maramec was started, I was given two lots there if I would move my shop; so since Maramec seemed a better location, I accepted and moved my building to the present location and have been here ever since. Maramec built up rapidly and has always been a lively town. The north block of Main

Street was at first made up of frame buildings, but a fire destroyed all of them, and, as you see, most of them have been replaced with stone structures.

There was another little town established in the same way about the time that Valley was. It was about five or six miles east of Valley and several miles north of Hallett. A large saloon was built and the townsite called Greenup. A number of lots were sold, but no other buildings besides the saloon were ever built. It did business for a year or two and was torn down. The townsite is still divided into lots, although there is nothing to mark the place.