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INDEX CARDS

**Foreigners--English
Pawnees
Sawmills--Pawnee Reservation
Agencies--Pawnee
Character Traits--Pawnee
Grist Mills--Pawnee Reservation
Trading Posts--Pawnee
Schools--Pawnee
Osage City
Owen, Robert L.
McGuire, Bird S.
County Seat Fights--Pawnee-Osage City
Payments--Pawnee**

INTERVIEW WITH MR. GEORGE ADAMS,
Pawnee.

FIELD WORKER GOLDIE TURNER
April 19, 1937.

Mr. Adams was born in East Grinstead, England, in 1862, came to America in 1887 and to Pawnee in 1891.

I came to the Government Trading post in 1891. The trading post was run by Mr. Vandervoort. I worked in the government saw-mill which was located on Black Bear creek close to the agency and also chopped wood with the Indians. The government had what is known as wood payments. The Indians and some whites would cut wood to supply the agency, schools and mills with wood. The wood would be delivered from time to time as needed but the government paid through the agency only once a year and only to the persons who took the contracts. I worked with many of the early day Indians and never lost a dollar. They always paid me as soon as they got their money.

The old government grist mill was located north of the creek in what is now the fair grounds. It was run with a steam engine and did all of the grinding for the trading post. White people could get their corn and wheat ground by giving a part of it to the mill.

The Indians did most of their buying at the trading post. They received \$35. annuity for each Indian each quarter. The supplies for the trading post were freighted from Perry by Indians and some whites. It usually took a week to make the round trip.

The east bridge between Pawnee and the agency was built by the county. It was washed out three or four times before the present bridge was put in. When I came here where the present north bridge is was a field that I farmed. The bridge was built so that people could get out to the cemetery.

I cut logs and helped build the first log house built in Pawnee county after the opening. It consisted of two 12' X 12' rooms with an open space between, the same size as the rooms and this was later boarded up. It had a clapboard roof and a fireplace at the end of each room. It was located about six miles east of Pawnee and stood until a couple of years ago when it fell down.

The agency school was established at the time the agency was. The Indians would bring their children on Sunday or early Monday and came to get them Friday evening. It didn't matter what part of the county you were in when Friday came you could see the Indians making preparations to go to the agency to get their children. The school just consisted of one building then and was farther south than the present buildings.

The site of Osage City was plotted out by Robert L. Owen to be the county seat of Pawnee county but through the efforts of Bird S. McGuire and Hoke Smith, then Secretary of the Interior, the county seat was established at Pawnee and Osage City remained only a small village for a few years, later being abandoned entirely.