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ALLEN, CARNULES W.

INTERVIEW

4483

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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#4483

ALLEN, CARNULES W.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) June 17, 1937

1. Name Carnules W. Allen

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 412 N. Madison

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 24 Year 1851

5. Place of birth Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

6. Name of Father Abaga Allen Place of birth Mississippi.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Cox Place of birth Mississippi.

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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An Interview with Carnules W. Allen, Elk City.

By - Ethel Mae Yates, Investigator.

June 17, 1937.

I came to the Indian Territory in 1898 and filed on a place and moved my family out here in 1899. My family consisted of my wife and eight children. We came here in covered wagons and aimed to cross at Cable's Ferry but the cable had been washed out and we had to cross the river by ford. We had four wagons and I was in the lead and was making it just fine until I was almost across, when I struck a bank of quicksand that had washed up and I went down. The man behind me thought that he could go around me and get out so he got stuck also, but we got out and took another team and rope we had with us and tied on and were just about out when the rope broke and let me roll back into the river; then we carried everything to the bank and then tried to get out but could not so we took the running gears out a piece at a time and it took us thirty minutes to get the wheel loose. It was about three o'clock when we got stuck and it was about sundown when we got out and it being a cold November day we were almost frozen, so we

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left everything and camped for the night. We loaded up and started on our journey and the next ing we came to our little home in Roger Mills County, which was eight miles south of what is now Elk City.

Our home was a dugout, size 16 X 18, with dirt floor and the roof was made of logs, hay and dirt. My two boys and I set about to improve the floor some by hauling dirt and filling up the holes in the floor, then we covered the dirt with grass and put a rug over that.

We had been there just three days when it started raining and rained three days and nights and the top of our dugout got soaked and got to dripping and almost drowned us out. Our dugout had a rock chimney in one end and a door in the other, with a tent out in front where part of the family slept. This crude structure was one of the few that dotted this prairie country. I was one of the first settlers who filed in this section of the country. Improvements were made by ranchmen who grazed their cattle on the prairie before the opening. These men had planted a large grove of trees on the place I filed on which furnished a shade for

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my stock. Another great improvement that the ranchmen had put on my place was a well.

The first school my children went to was in a dugout; it was in the southwest corner of B. B. Vandevender's place and was taught by T. L. Vandevender, who became later the superintendent of schools in Roger Mills County. We didn't have schools long until the people got together and got lumber from Mountain View for the schoolhouse, but we had to go to Weatherford for the seats. Weatherford was the nearest town and was fifty miles away,

The way we farmed, we would break our land with a sod plow and would take a can in which we had punched holes and put our seed in it and every third round we would put it on our plow.

I was one among the early settlers and I suffered many of the same hardships that hundreds of others did such as windstorms, hailstorms, sandstorms, drouth and sickness; but there is one achievement that I am proud of which is that I still own the place that I filed on and there is not a dollar against it. I am the first man who sold a bale of cotton in the streets of Elk City.