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

279

BAKER, W. F.

INTERVIEW.

10224.

Field Worker's name Raymond C. Jantz.This report made on (date) March 17, 1938. 193  1. Name W. F. Baker.2. Post Office Address Apache, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) West on Highway 54.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 11 Year 1866.5. Place of birth Illinois.6. Name of Father Simonon Baker. Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Sarah Mooney. Place of birth Ohio.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

BAKER, W. F.

INTERVIEW.

10224.

Raymond Jantz,  
Investigator,  
March 17, 1938.

An Interview With W. F. Baker,  
Apache, Oklahoma.

In May 16, 1901, we left Atlantic, Iowa and came overland in covered wagons. There were four families in this company. We stopped at McPherson, Kansas, and the men made the harvest in that state. After harvest for we came to El Reno and registered for the drawing. We didn't draw any land so we came on to Anadarko. Anadarko was only a Indian agency and trading post at this time. Where the fair grounds are now located was what was called Ragtown. They called it this because the dwellings were tents. The land that Anadarko now stands on was a corn field. I got corn out of this field to feed my teams and everyone did. The fellow that owned the corn patch didn't reap very much corn at gathering time. About this time a circus came into Anadarko and set up its tent on the place where the east school building now stands.

At this time they had "Issue Days" for the Indians. They would give the Indians beef, blankets and other things

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they needed. They had one issue house just south of the Washita River and another southwest of St. Patrick Mission south of Anadarko. At the issue pens southwest of Anadarko they would give beeves to the Indians. The Indians would pick their beef out and turn them out, then they would kill and butcher them right on the spot. They would ride their horses and kill them with bows and arrows in their native fashion.

After Anadarko got under way I began freighting. I hauled supplies and lumber from Chickasha to Anadarko. Then later I put up a butcher shop. I didn't stay in the butcher shop business long because I got other ideas and I changed business often. I have been a farmer, butcher shop manager and many other businesses. I am now in the country store business and have been in this business for the last four or five years.