

McLEOD, DICK

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Augusta H. Custer,

This report made on (date) February 10th, 1938

1. Name Dick McLeod,

2. Post Office Address Hinton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Two miles northeast of Hinton

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 24 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Monroe County, Missouri.

6. Name of Father James E. McLeod, Place of birth Maryland

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Lucrecia Dixon McLeod Place of birth Kentucky

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 2.

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Augusta H. Custer,
Investigator,
February 10, 1938.

An Interview with Dick McLeod,
Hinton, Oklahoma.

I came from northeast Monroe County, Missouri, in a covered wagon. I registered for the drawing of land at El Reno in 1901. My original number was 291 but three dropped out and my number was 288. I came back to my claim in September after filing on August 8th, 1901. This was a foolish thing to do, for no one wise did, but waited for the six months to be up. I built a box house size 10 X 12 feet. There were two other boys camped that winter down near the head of the canyon south of where Hinton is today and there were a few people at Bridgeport.

My, but that was a lonesome winter! The coyotes almost ate me up. They ran in bands and howled most awfully. There was a toll bridge at Bridgeport and if I had had the money to pay my toll I would not have stayed the winter through. Those two boys who trapped and hunted came to see me quite often and we ate many jack rabbits and coons that winter.

Other settlers came in the Spring and I was busy

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breaking sod and getting ready to plant some crop. I bought a two-room house at Bridgeport and moved it over on my claim and those two rooms have been part of my house ever since. I just reshingled my house this Winter.

I looked very young when I first took my claim, and one day a man came to my shack and wanted to get signers so that he could have a saloon in Hinton. He rode up on horseback and said, "Hello, kid, is your father at home?" "Well, I guess so; he was the last time I heard from him." The man looked his surprise at my answer and I concluded with the words "He lives in Missouri".

In those early years we used to have a better rodeo in the streets of Hinton every Saturday than they have now at rodeo contests.

My water system was "water works", indeed, for I had to carry all my water from a spring in the canyon about half a mile away. When I could I had a well drilled and this well is sixty-five feet deep and the water is good and there is plenty of it. My wife's people lived over near Okarche. They came to Oklahoma in 1889.