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BRISCOE, ALBERT G.

INTERVIEW

10421

259

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

BRISCOE, ALBERT. G.

INTERVIEW.

10241.

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland.

This report made on (date) March 15, 1938. 1938

1. Name Albert G. Briscoe.

2. Post Office Address Luther, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) R. R. #1.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 8 Year 1868.

5. Place of birth Neosho Falls, Kansas.

6. Name of Father John Briscoe. Place of birth Indiana.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Vandaveer. Place of birth Indiana.

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 _____.

BRISCOE, ALBERT G.

INTERVIEW.

10241.

Mildred B. McFarland,
Investigator,
March 15, 1938.

An Interview With Albert Briscoe,
Rt. #1, Luther, Oklahoma.

I lived on a farm in Wilson County, Kansas, prior to coming to Oklahoma. I came here September 22, 1891. I was twenty-three years of age and wanted to secure a home of my own. The Iowa, Sac and Fox lands were being opened for settlement at that time and I staked my claim five and one-fourth miles north of Luther, Oklahoma, on the original site of the Iowa Indian Reservation.

I first built a board shack, 10 x 12 feet. It was covered with clapboards and had a dirt floor. In the winter I stuffed the cracks in the wall with dry grass and mud.

I made all the necessary furniture from poles, dry-goods boxes and stumps. My dishes were fashioned from gourds. I made several water jugs from clay. I used the water from Fall Creek, close by, until I could dig a well.

When I first came I drove a covered wagon. My mother had given me some bedding and I brought a sod plow. I

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got about ten acres plowed up in time for spring planting.

There was a contestant on my place for one year. After I had finished with my plowing I bought him off with my team of horses and \$100.00 in cash. I then secured work with different ones in the community until I had enough money to work my claim.

The neighbors were always so friendly and kind. The men folks went together and built the first school house around there. It was finished in 1893 and was called "Garden School". We cut and hewed the logs by hand. The first teacher there was Emma Morgan. We paid her \$30.00 per month. We also used the school house for church services. Many a party and dance was held there too. People for miles around would come driving oxen and on horseback to attend an old time dance.

One evening a terrible storm was brewing, and someone knocked on my door. It was an old Sac and Fox Indian. He made me understand that he was seeking shelter from the storm. He had his blanket with him, and wrapping it about himself he lay down on the floor. I did not disturb him and next morning when I awoke he was gone, leaving his

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blanket behind. That was the only experience I ever had with the Indians.

I hauled my produce twenty-three miles to Guthrie to sell. It took all day to make the drive over and I stayed in the old wagon yard at Guthrie over night.

There were plenty of deer and wild turkeys here but I did not have much time to hunt.

I got my mail at first at a little post office called Tohee, three miles west of my place, where there was just the post office and one store. There is nothing left there now. The mail was brought from Waterloo over the Star Mail Route twice a week. It was later brought past the house by the same route, by Walter Blessing, the mail man, on horseback.

There was an old stage route, running from Guthrie to Chandler in 1891. The "Half Way House" was just one mile north of my place. It has recently been torn down.

I raised four children on the old homestead and am still living on it.