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INDEX CARDS

Opening- Old Oklahoma Territory  
Kingfisher  
John D. Miles  
Arbitration Board  
First City Election  
Arbitration Courts

Amelia Harris,  
Field Worker.

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

43112

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris

This report made on (date) June 14, 1937

At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1. Name Cash M. Cade,

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 831 E. Drive

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 4 Year 1856.

5. Place of birth Noble County, Illinois.

6. Name of Father Samuel Cade Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father dead

7. Name of Mother Emaline Rowe Cade Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about mother dead

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 7 Pages.

Amelia Harris,  
Field Worker.

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An Interview With Cash M. Cade,  
831 E. Drive, Oklahoma City.

I came from Coldwater, Kansas, to the boundary line between Oklahoma and Kansas in a side spring buggy drawn by a span of spotted Texas ponies, with a tent strapped on the sides. My intentions were to make the run but as there were ten thousand people who were trying to do that, I gave up the idea and decided to try for a business lot. With many others from Kansas, I arrived on Friday, April 18th. I mingled with the crowd, then decided I'd see how many Republicans were there.

We were standing in line, and I rode up and down the line, yelling for all Republicans to form a line on the south side. (This was on Sunday, April 20th, that the Republicans first started in the western part of the state.) Pat Nagle, a Democrat, heard me; he had two mules hitched to a light wagon. Jumping out, he unhitched his mules tying one up. Jumping on the back of the other, he started down the line yelling for all Democrats to form a line. He would get about twenty feet and the mule would start braying and backing toward the wagon; this happened two or three times. Finally Pat got the mule started and his party rounded up. No sooner had Pat finished than

J. D. F. Smith (called "Gentleman from No Man's land") hollowed for all the Presbyterians, etc., to get in line. Well, I don't know what the other parties decided to do but we Republicans decided to have a meeting as soon as the Run was over, which we did and decided not to allow a Democrat or Presbyterian, etc., to hold an office (I will relate what we did later on in the story).

Getting back to Monday, April 21st, the first hitch-hiker I ever saw was a woman with five children. Somebody picked them up in Kansas and brought them to the line. They were broke, walking, carrying a sack or two of clothes and nothing else. We men got together and decided to help her stake a claim, the Government had soldiers stationed up and down the line and Captain A. E. Woodson was to fire the first shot, which was a signal for all the soldiers to fire, too, for the Run. Well, I fixed a stake with her name on it, as the crowd had decided that she could stake the claim where Captain Woodson stood, we put her right by his side, and I instructed her to stick the stake down when he raised his revolver to give the signal. This she did and was never contested. We all donated money; some dug a big dugout and a well for her, starting her off to where she and the children could take care of themselves.

I don't remember much more about her excepting that she lived there several years and sold her farm for \$3700.00.

The Chisholm Cattle Trail, extending from Texas to Kansas, ran through this "Opening", just west of Kingfisher. It was about three hundred feet wide with deep cuts or ruts in it any where from one to two feet deep. Very few knew of its existence until they struck it; many were injured by being thrown from vehicles or horses; and horses and mules got their legs broken. There were many ups and downs to the famous Run.

I headed for Kingfisher and staked a lot. This proved to be of no value and I sold it and took up another.

The Land Office was located here north of Main Street on one acre of ground that the United States Government set aside for this office. The Newspapers and all business were all north of center.

I put up a tent before any of the homesteaders did and lived in it until I built.

I fell in with a man by the name of Murphy and we started out to hunt good vacant business property. When we came across Bill Cotton from Kansas, a reporter for the Chicago Herald, I told him what we were looking for and he said for us to take the lot where he was standing, as no one had staked it yet. No sooner was

this said than the Irishman (Murphy) had his stake in the ground. He was too quick for me. Then Cotton said: "take the adjoining one; Goodykoontz, a Kansas City Star reporter, staked it, but I don't think he can hold it". (The law was that neither a newspaper reporter or a Sooner could file a claim). I put my stake up and gave a man \$3.25 to dig a cellar (this was considered an improvement). When Goodykoontz returned, he was mad when he found his lot improved and he flourished a pistol around, wanting to fight. He offered a man \$1.25 to fill the cave up. I told him he would have to hike the price to \$3.25 for it cost that to have it dug. I told him further that the law would not allow him to hold it; that we would arbitrate, and that he could select six men and I would take three of them. This he did (the six were Kansas men, my friends). We had a Kangaroo Court, each pleading his own case and the judges decided in my favor. He came to me and said that he guessed the lot was mine. I replied that I wanted to do right and that I had \$375.00 cash which I split with him. We shook hands and were always good friends thereafter.

We, the Republicans, organized a provisional city government and elected John D. Miles (Indian Agent at Darlington) as Mayor. I was appointed acting Mayor

(and was the real Mayor) a real job without pay. We had five councilmen and one marshal (all Republicans).

We surveyed the town and laid off the streets being very careful to see that the survey didn't cut any of our friends' lots into the streets. Whenever possible, we left the contested lots into the street; there would be as many as five and six claimants for one lot. I appointed an arbitration Board with authority to take testimony and pass judgment. I appointed as chairman R. C. Palmer (the squarest man that ever lived.) Out of all the hundreds of contests that were appealed only two were reversed.

We then held a city election with judges, clerks, and regular booths for voting, and elected a "new provisional" government. We elected J. W. Admire, Mayor; J. C. Roberts, City Attorney; and I was elected City Clerk; J. D. F. Smith (called "Gentleman from No Man's Land") that headed the Presbyterians episode at the opening, was elected City Marshal. The last two named were the only two to receive pay which was \$50.00 per month, each. We levied an occupation tax agreed upon by the citizens, and didn't have any trouble in collecting it.

Out of this we paid for grading and other city improvements. We continued under this regime until Congress gave us Territorial Government under the laws of Nebraska.

The Territorial appointments were divided up among United States Senators: Harrison of Indiana appointed George Steele as Governor; Horace Speed, Attorney General of Indiana, appointed A. J. Seay from Missouri as Associate Justice, at Kingfisher for the western district. J. Clark of Wisconsin was chosen Associate Justice in Oklahoma City; and Charles Grey, Chief Justice who resided in Guthrie. W. S. Lurty from Virginia was United States Marshal. All officers came to Kingfisher in a body. Governor Steele, standing in a wagon, made a big talk out in front of the Johnston Hotel. In this speech he said, "We have brought the law and intend" and about that time a gun went off, the crowd quit the Governor and ran to see who was hurt. A man was killed (the first in Kingfisher) over a contested lot. We had run the town free of debts or killings and turned it over to the Territorial Government that way.

I was appointed the first County Clerk and register of deeds in Kingfisher County under appointment of

Governor Steele and held this appointment until the Choctaw Railroad was being built. Then I resigned in order to become the Corporation Townsite Manager at Shawnee, Earlsboro, and Choctaw City, in 1896.

The Railroad installed me as its commercial agent but in 1898 I resigned and entered business for myself. R. C. Palmer, whom I appointed on the Arbitration Board, was my real friend, living with me. I loved him like a brother. The day before he died he asked that I remember him with one rose on Decoration Day, his birthday. He died July 23, 1893, and I have never missed but twice placing a rose on his grave-- the year I was in France and another time when I was in the hospital.