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CAIN, P. L. (DR.) INTERVIEW 12773

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Form A-(S-119)

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

#12773

CAIN, P. L. (Dr.,) INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) January 18, 1938

1. Name Dr. P. L. Cain (white)

2. Post Office Address Albany, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 24 Year 1860

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Samuel H. Cain Place of birth South Carolina.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Martelia Pearson Place of birth South Carolina.

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 _____.

An Interview with Dr. P. L. Cain, Albany, Oklahoma.
By - Lula Austin, Investigator
January 18, 1938

I was born September 24, 1860, in Texas and moved to the Indian Territory on March 4, 1890, locating in Blue and established a post office there in 1891. I would go horse back once a week to Caddo for the mail. After two years I resigned and N. P. Keene was appointed postmaster. I then moved four miles north of Blue where I leased a piece of land and made a crop.

In 1897 I began practicing medicine, having studied medicine the previous year with Dr. C. M. Harrison. My first case was John Crowder who broke his leg; while riding after cattle, his horse slipped on the ice and fell on him. He got back on the horse and held his leg up and rode one and a half miles to his home. They sent for Dr. Harrison, but he refused to go; said he was getting married the next day and was taking no chances getting out in the bad weather. Dr. Harrison sent for me and told me to come by his house and he would let me have his kit and tell me how to set the broken leg.

There was lots of malaria and typhoid fever in the county. We treated malaria and typhoid patients by giving them calomel and quinine and most of them got well in spite of us.

Our charges were just half what they are today. We only charged \$10.00 for an obstetrical case. I will never forget an O. B. case on Blue River. I had to stay all night and a bed was prepared for me to lie down to rest. But I could not sleep for the bed bugs. Next day when I went home I was sitting on the porch scratching my head and my wife said, "Will you give me a dollar for all I catch?". She picked bed bugs out of my hair as big as wheat grains.

About thirty years ago at Christmas time I was called one night to Blue to attend a half breed negro who had been shot. When I arrived quite a crowd was there, all with six shooters and plenty of whiskey. The trouble arose when a Deputy arrested the negro for bringing a load of whiskey into the Territory from Texas, and another Deputy turned him loose. A fight followed and the negro was shot. The crowd was in two factions and one faction didn't like

me, so I lost no time in attending to the negro's wounds and getting out of town.

I was in Caddo during the lease district payment; there was lots of drinking and Key Durant was killed. Key Durant and a woman had just come in from Denison with a load of whiskey. The money paid out that day was in the vault in C. N. Haneak's store. Mr. Haneak had the store under heavy guard that night, as after Durant was shot fear was felt that there might be trouble in town.

My reason for coming to the Territory from Texas was to get away from a still house which my father was operating near Honey Grove. I had acquired the taste for whiskey, so left home and came to the Territory thinking there was no whiskey here. It was hard for me to quit drinking and after I married I drank and sometimes would stay drunk three weeks at a time.

One evening I was riding slowly home when I noticed my two little boys near the roadside unaware of my being so near. I said to myself "The little dickenses are talking about what a sorry daddy they have." That made me feel so little that I resolved never to drink again; that was in October, 1901, and I quit drinking that day.