

GILLUM, W. E.

INTERVIEW

#8914

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

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) October 14, 1937

1. Name W. E. Gillum

2. Post Office Address Cloud Chief, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Rural Route #1.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 9 Year 1872

5. Place of birth Lincoln County, Missouri.

6. Name of Father Fredrick Gillum Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Preacher

7. Name of Mother Sallie Dryden Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother Housewife

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 5.

Interview with W. E. Gillum
Cloud Chief, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Ida B. Lankford
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
September 14, 1937

I left Missouri in February, 1883. I went to Texas and lived there about ten years. I went to Oklahoma City from Gainesville, Texas, and filed November 14, 1893. In six months I started to Cheyenne, horseback. I rode it in six days. There were no roads, only byways. I had no idea about distance, just kept going in the northwest direction.

There were only a few shacks for houses and no bridges. We crossed the river wherever we could ford it. We found prairie, rolling land, red loam that didn't look good to one from the black land. It was covered with grass and with sage about waist high. What we wanted was something to sell to make a living. Seventy-five miles from the railroad was where we got all supplies; some men got freighting to do. That was mostly for married men. It took a week to haul

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a load of freight. A man received six to ten dollars to feed himself and his team. Okra seed was used for coffee.

People from the South wanted to raise cotton but there was no gin closer than 100 miles. I hauled my first cotton in 1897, to Cloud Chief. This gin rolled lint cotton on the floor. C. O. Carlyle picked it up, put in press, sprinkled cotton with water then stamped it until he had enough for a bale then finished wrapping it.

Some used oxen to break out the sod. A great many filed and went off and left their claims because they couldn't make enough to live on. They never came back. A very few old settlers are found on their homesteads.

School houses were one-half dugouts. Three months was the limited term. Preaching was also held in dugouts. People came in wagons, on horses, and some on foot.

In breaking sod we found many rattlesnakes.

In my bed in a dugout one night, I heard something rattle and there was a king snake holding a

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rattlesnake. I took both outdoors and killed them.

I left out the important part of schools, the wages were \$25.00 per month.

I saw my first blanket Indians at Chickasha. They drew rations twice a month at Anadarko.

There is a book telling about Andellee, as he was called by the Indians. His real name was Andrew Martinex. The book was written by J. J. Meth-
vin, Methodist preacher, telling about the life of this man who preferred to live among the Indians rather than among his own race. The love he had for them lasted to the day of his death. He thought he wanted to go to his people at one time but soon became tired of their ways and longed for the campfires. Mr. Martinex was captured by Apaches, traded to Kiowas, to Chief "Heap of Bear." When only a boy he would watch people get letters, then he began to wonder who he was. Finally, he got in touch with his brother, who came after him. He stayed with his folks awhile but came back and preached to Indians as long as he lived.

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This year at Anadarko the Indians had a fair. There were eight thousand Indians there.

Fruit, of course, was unknown only as people went to Texas or elsewhere and canned it. Pie melon was raised in the early days here. We used to sweeten these pie melons with molasses made from sugar cane.