

KINNICK, W. G.

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) October 1, 1937

1. Name W. G. Kinnick
2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma, Route 2
3. Residence address (or location) one mile West of Perry
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 14 Year 1868
5. Place of birth Dallas County, Iowa

6. Name of Father John T. Kinnick Place of birth Indiana
Other information about father Pioneer, came on first train from Guthrie
Buried in Grace Hill Cemetery,
Perry.
7. Name of Mother Annis G. Kinnick Place of birth Illinois
Other information about mother Buried in Iowa

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 _____.

Ida A. Merwin
Investigator
October 1, 1937

Interview with
W. G. Kinnick
Perry, Oklahoma.

I, W. G. Kinnick, son of John T. and Annis (Graham) Kinnick, was born in Dallas County, Iowa, December 14, 1868.

In the Fall of 1893, I came from California by train to Amarillo, Texas, where I bought a cow pony and rode to Guthrie for the purpose of entering the race in the opening of the Cherokee Strip. Through a correspondence with my father, who lived in Iowa, he and I had arranged to meet at Guthrie and make the run together.

Upon arriving there I found he had not gotten a horse and he discouraged me from entering the race with the pony I had, so I sold the pony and we took the train to Perry. We were successful in getting lots in the town site.

During my travel from Amarillo, into Okla-

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homa, I was impressed with the camp yards, where one could keep his horses and stay for the night if he cared to; this seemed to me to be a good business to start here, so we secured lots on Cow Creek in the east part of the town site; a good spring was near these lots.

We set up our tent, which Father had brought with him and made arrangements to open a camp and feed yard; we also made it convenient for those who camped to cook their meals. This proved a very profitable business.

My stepmother and the family came from Iowa during the winter and we lived in the tent until a house could be built.

This was a two story house and was located on D St. (now known as Delaware St.) east of the Santa Fe Depot.

In 1895 we bid on school land and succeeded in getting a quarter in Section 13, Township ^{Range} 21, 1 East. There was a dug-out on this land, made by

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some one who had staked it during the race and later learned it was school land and so could not keep it.

We secured some buildings in Perry and moved to the lease to build the improvements.

In early days if a man owed a debt and had any buildings that were empty, they could be attached and sold at auction to apply on the debts and that is how we got these buildings.

I moved to the lease and "batched" there until I was married in 1896.

Father continued to run the camp yard and in so doing, he had opportunities to buy or trade for stock which we would take to the lease and keep there until we could dispose of it.

During the second winter I fed a car load of cattle and among them were two or three teams of oxen which Father had traded horses for.

I bought corn from others in that community

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for eleven cents a bushel.

Our first crop on the lease was kaffir and later we planted corn which was the main crop.

I farmed this land for four years, then my wife and I went to Colorado and after one year there, we returned to Noble Township and later traded it for the one on which we now have our home.

Shortly after the opening, I helped to build the first bridge over Cow Creek. This was built on Third Street, between C and D Streets. This bridge ^{was} made of logs hewn with broad-axes; these logs were used for the abutments and stringers, and lumber for the floor was bought from a saw mill on Black Bear Creek about eighteen or twenty miles east of Perry.

This bridge was used until one was built on C street after which the old one was removed and today anyone would doubt that a bridge ever had been built there.

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A Congregational Church was built on the east side of Cow Creek on C Street and was used for a school room until a school house was built.

Professor Tally was appointed County Superintendent of P County, which is Noble County now, and the first school building was built by public subscription.

I hauled material and did some work on the building and later the Blaine School was built. This was in south-west Perry and about the same location as the building that is used for the negro school now. In 1895 a High School building was built.

My stepmother, Jennie E. Kinnick, was a substitute teacher and at one time taught five or six weeks in the Indian School at Pawnee.

A Methodist Church was organized in October, 1893, with Reverend D. J. M. Wood as pastor.

A subscription of \$500.00 was obtained and a church was built in the north-west part of town.