

CARNALLAN, WILLIAM

INTERVIEW

13708

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

CARNAHAN, WILLIAM.

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13708.

Field Worker's name Jarvis W. Tyner

This report made on (date) April 22, 1938. 193

1. Name William Carnahan.

2. Post Office Address Remona, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Four blocks east of the Baptist Church.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 28 Year 1879.

5. Place of birth Elk City, Kansas.

6. Name of Father J. D. Carnahan. Place of birth Illinois.

Other information about father Raised in Kansas.

7. Name of Mother Hattie Wisdom Carnahan. Place of birth Illinois.

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 _____

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Jarvis W. Tyner,
Investigator,
April 22, 1938.

An Interview With William Carnahan,
Ramona, Oklahoma.

EARLY LIFE.

I was born at Elk City, Kansas, September 28, 1879. My parents were J. D. and Hattie (Wisdom) Carnahan, natives of Illinois. My father lived practically all his life in Kansas and died in Ramona at the age of sixty-nine in 1914. I was on a farm from five years old at Elk City, Kansas until I was seventeen. At Elk City I went to the grade school. I came to Bartlesville in 1897. I have been a resident in this district and in Washington County ever since 1897. William Johnstone hired me as a grain buyer. In 1900 I bought grain and stock for Mr. Johnstone in and around Ramona for four or five years. In 1905 I went into the grocery business for myself. In 1910 I married Edith Reush of Colorado.

There was an oil company formed, known as the Security Oil Company which was organized in 1902 and existed until

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1904. Frank Booker of Bartlesville was president. Other members were William Carnahan of Ramona, John Greenwood of Ramona, Herman Bigham also of Ramona and there were other members. The purpose of this oil company was to interest Indians to come to this part of the country and allot land. They would lease it from them for their oil rights. They, the three latter men, were paid \$100.00 a month to go and bring Indians to this part of the country to allot the land in and about Ramona on as far north as the Kansas line. During the few years of the company's existence they had leased between five hundred thousand and a million acres of land for its oil rights. The Department of the Interior passed some kind of a bill that corporations couldn't lease over five thousand acres. I sold my interest in the company for \$1,800.00 This was the way I got started in the grocery business.

CATTLE.

I worked for Billy Johnstone out of Bartlesville. He bought feed, cattle and other stock for his boss. He later herded cattle, ran a chuck wagon, worked on his ranch north-

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west of Ramona. It was known as the Bar-J-Ranch. The foreman on the ranch was Walt Brown.

I remember seeing wagon trains going by to the Cherokee Strip. They had painted on the side of their wagons--"Strip or Bust". In a few days they would come back by and "Busted" would be painted on the sides of the wagons. There was one early church in Bartlesville that I knew about. Reverend Owens was the preacher here. There was no church in Ramona at that time. Some deputy United States marshals at that time were Bud Trail, Bud Ledbetter, William Shipley, and Bruner.

Bob Bass had the first electric plant in Ramona. He supplied several people with power and also had electric lights in his own drug store. I also bought an electric light plant and supplied my own lights and also lights to the barber shop which was located just next door. There was a great epidemic of Flu during the war. In some cases it was known that a doctor would come and find the entire family down with the flu. In a few cases it was known that one of the family or even two had died without anyone of the immediate family knowing anything about it.

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There was a ferry known on the Caney River as the "Jimmy Day Ferry". There was one other above the Jake Bartles Mill Dam known as Bartles Ferry. One time I went to Ringold and noticed that the Indians were having a Stomp Dance. They were having a good time because they were riding their horses in and out of Charlie Keeler's store. Charlie Taylor ran this store at one time too.