

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

Field Worker's name Ruth Lee Gamblin

This report made on (date) June 16, 1937.

1. Name Mr. Noble Cole

2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) North 11th St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 21 Year 1884.

5. Place of birth Wilbarger County, Texas.

6. Name of Father Robert Cole Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 4.

Ruth Lee Gamblin,
Interviewer.
June 16, 1937.

Interview with Noble Cole,
Frederick, Oklahoma
Born May 21, 1884
Father-Robert Cole

I was born in Wilbarger County, Texas, in
1884 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole.

I lived in Texas with my parents until
the opening of the Indian Territory, then I se-
cured a job with a surveying crew which was lay-
ing the famous Bess Line, the first railroad out
of Vernon, Texas, into Oklahoma. This railroad is
now the Frisco. We worked for the Townsite Company
and were paid \$4.00 a day, which at that time was
very good money. There were eight men in the crew
and we had a camp. This was when I saw my first
Indian, in 1900. The Comanche Indians came down
along the river to hunt. This was a treat for us
men. They would hunt wild turkey, coyote and antelope
as this country was covered with them at that time.

COLE, NOBLE.

INTERVIEW.

4523.

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After the railroad was completed I went back to Vernon, Texas, and stayed until 1901; I then came back with my brother, Robert Jr. At that time the town which is now Frederick was called Hazel, and was made up of shacks and tents and prairie grass. There were only a few people living around then. We put up a grocery store, which was only a little shack with walls covered with cloth sacks. It was just about the only grocery store so we really made money.

We bought most everything in Vernon and brought it with us. Groceries at that time were rather cheap, and we had to sell on credit, but never failed to get our money.

I never saw so much corn as was raised that year. At times you would see as many as seven men shucking corn at one time and that was very good for the number of farmers. They did not raise much cotton until 1903, but they really raised it that year and sold it at 10 cents a pound.

COLE, NOBLE.

INTERVIEW.

4523.

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Farms were very cheap up until 1907. Some of the best farms now in Tillman County could have been bought for \$1500.00, then.

People came from almost every state in the Union during the opening. Everyone wanted to go West.

In the early days, we had saloons on every corner and no law, so we might say those were called wild days. Each saloon had what was called a bull pen and when a man had had too much to drink they would put him in the bull pen. This bull pen took the place of a jail.

We had only three water wells in town so each store and house had a water barrel and each day three water wagons would go around with water just as the ice trucks do now and sell water at 3 cents a gallon.

There was one frame school house at that time and that was where we had our social gatherings. We would have school plays, parties and very often a Medicine Show would come to town and stay for a week. They would also show in this school house.

COLE, NOBLE.

INTERVIEW.

4523.

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I was married in 1907 and then sold my part of the grocery store to my brother; however, I moved north of Frederick to a little town that is now Manitou and put in a grocery store. This place had just opened so I pioneered two towns in Tillman County, however, we did not live in Manitou but just a short time. We then returned to Frederick where I went back in the grocery business.

I have seen Frederick grow from a shack town to a nice little city. I am County Commissioner now and as I go over the county I like to think of the early days.