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BIOGRAPHICAL
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse

This report made on (date) May 19 1937

1. Name Mr. H. L. Deaton

2. Post Office Address Comanche Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Dec Day _____ Year 1852

5. Place of birth Texas

White race

6. Name of Father _____ 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 _____.

INTERVIEW. WITH H. L. DEATON.

I came into Oklahoma in 1887 and settled in the Tucker Community. We crossed the river at Red River Station then on up the trail to the settlement. Tucker had four or five merchants. Link was postmaster. There was a gin.

I brought my cattle, about fifty head, with me.

I built my home. It was a dugout 18 by 20 feet and cost me over a hundred dollars besides my time. It was about half way between Comanche and Duncan.

In order to keep cattle I had to be under an Indian. Hick Harrison was the one that claimed my cattle. He was certainly a good Indian. Once I had all my cattle stolen, and he traced them until he found all and helped me get them back. Hick Harrison looked after about twenty of us. We were his wards. Oh, we paid him a little to take care of the cattle.

There were no Colonies. We came into this country a few at a time. Each got an Indian to claim him and then leased the land.

Every thing was quiet but guns were carried on saddles. Once in a while there was a squabble that was in the shacks that sold beer.

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I started farming. I peddled my stuff over around Ft. Sill. It was cross country rough and tough. I camped out in the open. That was very hard. Why, one year I raised fifteen bales of cotton on sixteen acres of land. I had it ginned at the Tucker Gin but had to take it to Belcher, Texas to sell it. My brother-in-law and I put the first fence in here then.

We had a hard time crossing Red River. Sometimes we bogged down and had to spend hours getting out. There would be so many along it didn't take so long to carry all the stuff out, as we usually went in bunches. When cotton season was on we had to make many trips across the river. Then we laid in our year's supply of goods and groceries.

I remember one trip in particular. We came near to the river. There were several of us. Jim Darnel was lying back in a wagon dead drunk. He raised up and put his head out of the wagon and yelled, "You are going to lose a mighty good man if we don't get to water soon." We always carried fresh water with us on the trips for it was very hot those days. Men enjoyed those trips; it was a chance to get acquainted.

At that time Grant Wilkerson taught our schools.

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They were financed by subscription, and during the three years he taught he lost only thirty-five cents in all collections. This was in an old log school house between here and Duncan.

During those years we had Church every Sunday. We managed to get together and have Sunday school for our children. Once in a while some one would drop in and preach for us.

Andy Yates moved his business from Tucker in 1892.

I built the second house in Comanche in 1892 before the railroad came through. The one I'm living in was built in 1901.

