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INTERVIEW

LEGEND & STORY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) December 22, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Charles Emmerick

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

Came to Oklahoma in 1891

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

EMMERICK, CHARLES

INTERVIEW

#9587

Investigator,  
Louise S. Barnes,  
December 22, 1937

Interview with Charles Emmerick  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

I was born on December 19, 1854 in Germany, and came to Kansas at the age of thirty; I lived in Brown County for six years, working for John Jausk, who also was a homesteader in Oklahoma in the Territorial Opening.

In 1891, I came to Kingfisher on the Rock Island train bringing with me from Brown County, Kansas, four horses in a box car. I homesteaded in Grant Township 15-16-6 six miles east of Kingfisher. I bought an old sod house from a soldier, to live in for a few years, and then I bought a flock of chickens, a two room house and a stable large enough for my four horses; the house and stable were made from up and down boards.

There was a dance hall on the place joining my farm and the bachelors and all the community took part in these dances and no matter how rough a man might appear on these wide open prairie, he would always be well behaved at these dances, or in the presence of any lady.

In every section there was a gathering place so the people in the surrounding homes could gather together and in those days

EMMERICK, CHARLES

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people were more than anxious to ride twenty or twenty-five miles in a buckboard ( a four-wheeled vehicle, consisting of boards resting on half springs ) and be jolted over the prairie for the pleasure of meeting and spending a few hours with their neighbors.

There were the old time square dances that took four ladies and the same number of men for one set. At this dance there was always a caller who called out the changes to be made, such as " four hands half ", while the fiddler played his fast swinging pieces such as, " Turkey in the Straw", and the "Irish Wash Woman." These were gay and happy nights on the prairie, far from the glare of the Cities, and these care free, hard working people had their merry times.

I now live in Kingfisher, after spending forty-four years of my life on the old homestead that joined the old dance hall that is gone but not forgotten.