



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

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MORGAN, R. J. (MRS) INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name virgil CourseyThis report made on (date) October 21 19371. Name Mrs. R. J. Morgan2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 900 North Hudson4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 18 Year 18725. Place of birth Texas6. Name of Father Adrian N. Garvin Place of birth Texas

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Virgil Coursey  
Investigator  
October 21, 1937

Interview with  
Mrs. R. J. Morgan  
Altus, Oklahoma.

Experiences of Reverend R. J. Morgan  
Early Baptist Preacher of Oklahoma.

Brother R. J. Morgan was born in Georgia  
October 25, 1864. He was one of eight children  
left with his widowed mother and had to assume  
life's responsibilities at the age of sixteen.

Brother Morgan's first wife was Miss Lula  
Davis of Rockmont, Georgia, and she died one  
year after their marriage. At the age of nine-  
teen he left Georgia and came to Comanche County,  
Texas in the Fall of 1882. In 1885, he was united  
in marriage to Miss Alice Williams.

After several years Brother Morgan drifted  
into New Mexico and worked on a ranch. It was  
here that he was converted and felt the call to  
preach.

However, he thought preachers were made of

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unusual material and it was almost eight years before he yielded to the call to preach. With the decision to preach came the decision to move back to "civilization."

In 1887, "Buckskin Joe," one of the boomer element, organized a townsite and started the little town of Navajo, nestled at the foot of the Navajo Mountains. A preacher named Duncan came there, held a meeting and organized a church, the first Baptist Church that was ever organized in Oklahoma.

Later that same year Brother Morgan placed his membership with the little Navajo church, though at that time he had not fully decided to enter the ministry. The primitive church had twelve charter members and had as pastor a Reverend Mr. J. M. Newman, who also taught a little subscription school in the community. In the Spring of 1888, Brother Newman resigned and T. F. Medlin became pastor of the church until 1892, at which time Brother Morgan was called.

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Brother Morgan preached his first sermon under an elm tree at Warren and was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry in June, 1892. The Presbytery consisted of Brethern David Adams, L. J. Chaney and L. M. Medlin.

At this time, 1892, there were only two or three churches in old Greer County; one at Mangum, originated by T. F. Medlin; one at Frazier, later the Altus church; and of course the original Navajo Church. These churches were really missionary churches and were mainly supported by the conference.

At one time or another, Brother Morgan was pastor of nearly every Baptist Church in Jackson County.

He was loved by everyone who knew him. He put his whole heart into the ministry often retiring long after midnight and arising by four in the morning.

I married Brother Morgan in 1913. He preach-

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ed for forty-two years, as long as his strength permitted. He often wished his summons would find him in the ministry. It did. He died in 1934.