

### **Notice of Copyright**

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

### **Citing Resources from the Western History Collections**

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BIARD, CLAUDE C.

INTERVIEW

#12768

1

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma 12768

BIARD, CLAUDE C. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Hazel B. Greene

This report made on (date) January 24, 1938.

1. Name Claude C. Biard
2. Post Office Address Hugo, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 25 Year 1875
5. Place of birth Biardstown, Texas.

6. Name of Father T. F. Biard Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Lillie Johnson Biard Place of birth Atlanta, Georgia.

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 5.

An Interview with Mr. Claude C. Biard, Hugo.  
By - Hazel B. Greene - Journalist.  
January 24, 1938.

In 1842, my grandfather Biard started from Alabama in a wagon but had to finish his trip to Texas by boat. They came up Red River by boat and settled at Biardstown about ten miles northeast of Paris.

My mother's father was a Dr. Johnson and moved from Georgia to Texas in the 1850s.

When my father was seventeen years old, he was in the Confederate Army and wintered at Doaksville. He was serving under Generals Cooper and Stand Watie. They were jointly in command of both white and Indian troops.

I got the habit of coming over into the Indian Territory in boyhood. We had some great times, hunting and fishing. From the time we would cross Red River it was like being in another world. It was so different from Texas. All the streams were full of fish and all the trees were full of squirrels, birds and turkeys, and the woods were full of every kind of game that was natural to this country. I never saw a

bear or a panther but they said there were a few here. They were mostly north of here in the mountains. There were plenty of wild cats. We used to run them and catch them with the dogs just for the sport of it. Deer were so plentiful that I have seen as many as six deer carcasses hanging in camp at once. It was no unusual thing to see deer haunches hanging in any of the stores over the country. The merchants would buy them for a little tobacco or ammunition for 50 cents and sell them for \$1.00 each.

Bunches of us used to get together and load a wagon with a camping outfit and come over into the Indian Territory and hunt and fish for a week or two at a time, and we really enjoyed it too.

We seldom ever saw an Indian. They are naturally of such shy and retiring dispositions that they usually steered clear of hunting camps. Sometimes we would be over here a couple of weeks and never see a soul except our own party until we would be on the way home, or maybe we would meet a lone horseman on some trail.

There was so little travel that evidences of a wagon having gone over a certain route would have disappeared before another wagon came along, consequently, there could be no roads. It takes travel to make roads. Sometimes we would cross Red River at Golden Bluff and sometimes at Hooks' Ferry. No matter where we crossed we were at "Roads end" when we got on the Territory side, there were trails from there on and the finest grass I ever saw. It was frequently three feet high.

About 1898 I moved over to Goodland and leased and fenced a lot of the prairie land and cut and baled the grass for hay and shipped out hundreds of tons by carloads into Texas.

From 1894 to 1897 my sister, Minnie Biard, was Principal at Wheelock Academy, a school for Indian orphan girls.

Two double cousins of mine, Misses Ollie and Mollie Biard, taught at that Academy too. Mollie is dead, and Ollie became the third wife of William Ward Wilson, a Choctaw Indian who was very prominent in the affairs of his people. Mrs. Wilson and their son, William Ward Wil-

son Jr., and Miss Ollie Jane reside in Norman.

We would come over sometimes to bring the young ladies to Wheelock and sometimes to take them home. We were living at Paris, Texas, then and it was easier to get a hack and drive to Golden Bluff or to Hooks' Ferry and thence to Wheelock than to go by train to Goodland and chance getting a conveyance from there to Wheelock. Of course there was the Military Road from Goodland down by Wheelock, which was an advantage, but one could not always get a conveyance.

In 1900 I moved to Grant because I could buy a lot and build a home there. The business men of the town hired a surveyor and laid out the townsite, the first to be laid out in the county. The next year the Government re-surveyed the townsite and approved ours but we had already built our houses. We felt confident that we were correct in our survey. I am the only one living of the bunch who had the original townsite surveyed. Among them were G. W. Dodd, Al Nelson, Joe Everidge, Columbus Ervin, Bas Goodling and Dr. Ables.

Dr. Ables was the first doctor at Grant and Bas Goeding was the first postmaster. He was postmaster and railroad agent too. The first township Board of Trustees was composed of Al Nelson, Bob Krvin and myself. I was on the City Council for years. I was postmaster at Grant for twenty years then I moved to Hugo. I still own the Grant Drug Store. Grant was a pretty good town. There was a bank and a newspaper and everything that it takes to make a good little town. But when Grant lost to Hugo in her battle for the county seat the town of Grant was ruined. Hugo won the county seat from Grant by the "Skin of her teeth".

A fellow named Grandy published the "Grant Graphic" from 1898 to 1905 and then he moved to McCurtain County and published the "Garvin Graphic".