

OBERDALEHOFF, WILL

INTERVIEW

10480

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LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma  
**OBERDAHALHOFF, WILL. INTERVIEW.**

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10450.

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes.This report made on (date) April 18, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was  
secured from (name) Will Oberdahlhoff.

Address Greenfield, Oklahoma.This person is (male or ~~female~~) White, ~~Not recorded~~;

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

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

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

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator,  
April 18, 1938.

An Interview With Will Oberdahlhoff,  
Greenfield, Oklahoma.

Will Oberdahlhoff was born in Missouri April 1, 1877, and moved to Logan County in 1893. He lived on a farm but there was a complete failure with the crops in 1894 and 1895, and had nothing to eat but kaffir corn-bread and salt pork until the second year in Oklahoma then they had plenty of milk and butter. His father died when he was a small boy, leaving his mother with four children, so while he remained at home he was required to farm barefooted, even for two years after he began farming for himself. He started farming in 1899; he got his money to buy his equipment through a loan but had to pay 5% every month on it so wanted to pay it off as soon as possible. He bought equipment that was walking implements, so had to walk many a mile to farm the eighty acres of Indian land he had rented, but he still was barefooted. But as the years continued he increased the acres he was farming so was soon farming three Indian eighties.

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He bought his own home in 1910, after he and his wife were married in 1902. Her name was Ella. They had lived one mile north of where their farm in Blaine County is now located. They lived in a half dugout three years, and then they started building up their own home.

Mr. Oberdahlhoff said: My wife and I have had no help except that we could always borrow money when we got in a tight place, but we are now even with the world, and do not owe anyone. We have our farm all clear, formerly it was Indian land. It has not been an easy job to pay out a farm and home like we have and we have had lots of bad luck as well as good, but I had a companion who would stick through it all and help try to find some way we could make the grade, which we have, and now we are spending our lives as we have always wanted to. Some could not make a go in this new country when it was opened up but I was not used to much so it seemed like a chance to me, even though I was only a barefoot boy.