

OSBORN, GEORGE B.

INTERVIEW

#4674

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

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Field Worker's name Jimmie Birdwell

This report made on (date). June 23, 1937

1. Name George B. Osborn

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 109 Southwest 24th Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 25 Year 1863

5. Place of birth Wichita, Kansas.

6. Name of Father W. F. Osborn Place of birth Ohio

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

7. Name of Mother Mary Snyder. Place of birth Ohio

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheet, if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3.

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An Interview with George Osborn, Oklahoma City.

By - Jimmie Birdwell, Field Worker.

June 23, 1937.

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George Osborn came from Wichita, Kansas to Purcell and when the day of the opening came, he, with his father, hired a buggy and made the run and staked a claim about five miles south of the Santa Fe depot. This is now 56th Street and they had to go up the South Canadian River twenty-five miles from Purcell to the crossing known as Barrow Ford as this was the only safe crossing on the South Canadian River.

There were some other crossings but they were too full of quicksand.

After the claim was staked George and his father left for Wichita, Kansas, and loaded up their household goods in a wagon and started back to Oklahoma; they had one team hitched to the wagon and one extra horse and three cows.

The Osborn homestead, a frame house, was used for church and Sunday School and finally each one of the

settlers put in money and they built the Prairie Queen School and Church, which are still used.

It took eight days to make the trip from Wichita, Kansas, to Oklahoma.

Mr. Osborn tried to raise cotton and feed but his new sod farm did not raise good cotton and it was too dry for feed to do any good.

The worst dust storm Mr. Osborn ever saw was in the late Fall of 1889 when the dirt blew in from the northwest for two days and nights.

Mr. Osborn has seen saloons as thick as gasoline filling stations are today, and he never went to town after night as it was not safe. The thugs would knock a man down and rob him.

As the dry season passed Mr. Osborn raised hogs and hog feed.

There were no bridges on the North Canadian River which had to be forded and sometimes in the wet season it would be weeks before Mr. Osborn could get to town and in those times he and his family would live on milk and bread.

Mr. Osborn's farm would not grow garden stuff very well as it was on a ridge and was what was called "tight land", but feed stuff did fairly well after the land had been farmed for two or three years.