

NORDSTROM, GUST.

INTERVIEW

9245

295

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma  
 NORDSTROM, GUST                      INTERVIEW                      #9245

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) November 18 1937

1. Name Gust Nordstrom

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) R. R. #3

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 1 Year 1862

5. Place of birth Gotesborg, Sweden

6. Name of Father Jonas Swanson Place of birth Sweden

Other information about father Born in Gotesborg

7. Name of Mother anna (Burkland) Swanson Place of birth Sweden

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 3.

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Mildred B. McFarland  
Field Worker  
November 18, 1937.

Interview with Gust Nordstrom  
Edmond, Oklahoma.

I came from Gotesborg, Sweden, to Princeton, Illinois, when I was twenty-two years of age. At the age of twenty I attended a Military School about one hundred miles from Gotesborg. When one enters there a new name is given you. My father's name was Swanson. My new name was Nordstrom. On leaving the school you can resume your family name or keep the new one. I preferred the name of Nordstrom.

My brother, Charles, came to America with me, and we had been in Princeton, Illinois, two years when Oklahoma was opened for settlement.

I decided to make the run and establish a home in America. My brother stayed in Princeton. Several other boys and myself went to Purcell on the train. When the signal was given at noon on April 22, 1889, we started back north. We arrived in Edmond and I started walking due west. I had walked about two or three miles, when I

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sat down to rest. I found I was sitting on a corner marker to a claim. I immediately placed my flag. Chisholm Creek runs through the place, and at one place a high bank extended back from the creek. I started digging a cave or dugout in the bank for shelter. I covered it with logs and hay. Then I covered the entire thing with sod. I sent for my brother and we started housekeeping.

We secured our water supply from Chisholm Creek. We lived in this manner for almost a year. We fashioned our furniture from split logs and dry goods boxes.

At that time a sawmill had been established in the neighborhood. We cut down trees and hauled them to the mill, to be cut into lumber. We built a one room house, about 16 x 20. Two years later we dug a well. I still have the first table I made and used so many years ago.

Our first crop was small, but we raised a few potatoes, some kaffir corn and oats.

That first year we bought a yoke of oxen and a milch cow. We bought a few chickens, also.

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I lived on the place eight years before I married Clara Blades.

Our social activities were limited. We attended church in Edmond.

We always helped our neighbors to harvest their grain in the fall and they would help us in exchange. We would have a big dinner after everything was finished.

There were plenty of wild game and fish.

I worked hard for what I have and am still living on the homestead. I placed my flag in 1889.

We have quite a lot of improvements now and a large house. The first little box house still stands on the place and is now used as a granary. The original shingles are still on it.