

PATTERSON, JOHN N.

INTERVIEW

#4842

463

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

Field Worker's name Warren D. MorneReport made on (date) July 12 1937Name John N. PattersonPost Office Address Velma, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1864Place of birth Texas

Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

es or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story  
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  
attached 2.

Warren D. Morse  
Interviewer  
July 12, 1937

465

Interview with John N. Patterson,  
Velma, Oklahoma.

I came into Oklahoma in 1898. I settled near Velma and have been living here all the time.

I have farmed most of the time. Back in those days farming was hard, for there were not as many different kinds of tools and what we did have were hard to get hold of. The land was new and very productive.

In the fall of the year when our cotton was ready for market or for ginning we had to haul it from Velma to Duncan, twenty-two miles northwest. There was a gin at Velma but we all wanted to go to Duncan, just for a change I guess. Five or six of us would go together, for company mostly. Roads were no good so we had to drive slowly with loads.

---

After we had our cotton ginned and sold we started out over town hunting excitement, which was a drinking spree. Old T. A. Horn ran a dry-goods store on the corner of Eighth and Main then. I would buy liquor and go into his store to hide it. Horn was good about

-2-

letting me hide the stuff in there. I'd go in and go to the back of the store, raise up a pair of overalls and place it there. As soon as I came in the door all the clerks knew what I was in there for.

One day a friend and I had come to Duncan. We went to Tom Foreman, got some liquor, and started across the street with it. A man by the name of Stephens, who had just replaced Tom Lilly as United States deputy, was standing on the street. My friend stopped and said, "My God, there is Stephens". He was carrying the liquor. I didn't know who Stephens was so I told this friend to let me have the stuff. Well, I went right on to my buggy with both bottles and wasn't stopped. I went on out of town.

Yes, Duncan was just a small frontier town then and was pretty rough. We never talked much, had to keep our mouths shut so we wouldn't get mixed up in any trouble.

---