

PAULK, I. R.

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Augusta H. Guster.

This report made on (date) March 22, 1938. 1938

1. Name I. R. Paulk.

2. Post Office Address Calumet, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Eleven miles southeast of Geary.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1872.

5. Place of birth Southwest Missouri.

6. Name of Father William Paulk. Place of birth Ohio.

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Pierson Place of birth Unknown.

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 _____

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Augusta H. Custer,
Investigator,
March 22, 1938.

Interview with I. R. Paulk,
Calumet, Oklahoma.

I came from Missouri to Miami, Indian Territory, in the Spring of 1899. That was the windiest year I ever saw and I have lived in Oklahoma ever since that time. Those who planted wheat had it blown right out of the ground. The roads were not very good, I'll admit, and those running east and west were, in places, piled full of loose sand. Of course, since there is more plowed ground, there is more loose sand to blow, but the wind has always blown; some years more than others.

We went from Miami to near Geary, Oklahoma. We had two covered wagons. I drove mules and Father drove the horses. We were on the road two weeks. We were in no

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hurry and were enjoying the trip overland. Started late in the mornings and camped when we found a good place.

We were driving along between Vinita and Afton and I was ahead. There was a mud hole in the road. I looked the place over and drove straight through the water and mud. Father saw what I had done and was surprised that I did not get stuck in the hole. The tracks around there showed that some had been going to one side or the other, to avoid the center, Father decided that he would go to one side and stay out of some of the mud and water. I looked back to see how he was coming and saw that the side of the road toward the water was much lower than he had expected and the wagon had turned over on its side, in the water. This alone would not have mattered so much but Mother who was riding with him had fallen and had broken her collar bone. We could have gotten a doctor at Vinita. I wanted her to have a doctor, but she would not and the bone was never set. Her shoulder has always drooped from that fall. I had wanted Mother to come on the train and meet us at El Reno but she did not want to so when we came on up this way she came in the wagon with us.

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I was twenty^{seven} years old at that time and bought a relinquishment from G. S. Pearl, about fourteen miles south of where Geary is today. I lived there many years and sold it and bought the place where I am today.

There were plenty of quail, rabbits, coyotes and wildcats when I came here. There are plenty of rabbits and some coyotes yet. I was driving along a road near a canyon, when I first came here, and saw two deer. I did not try to harm them. They were the only ones I ever saw in this state.

A cyclone in 1912 killed three people near Calumet; it did not damage us any.

My mother and father were quite religious and did not approve of us going to dances. When I was twelve years old, my brother and sister were going to a party at a school house. It was called an oyster supper and dance. I asked Daddy if I could go along. He gave his consent. They were short of men at the party that night and coaxed me to take a number and dance. I did not know very much about dancing but I managed to get around fairly well.

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I had supper and finished the night. When I had slept and thought it over, I cried and thought that I had committed the unpardonable sin. They never got me to dance any more.