

PENDLETON, GEORGE D.

INTERVIEW

8071

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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PENDLETON, GEORGE D. INTERVIEW. 8071

Field Worker's name Virgil Coursey

This report made on (date) July 27, 1937

1. Name George D. Pendleton

2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 704 East Commerce

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1871

5. Place of birth Virginia

6. Name of Father J. M. Pendleton Place of birth Virginia

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

7. Name of Mother Rhodie Jane Brown Place of birth Virginia

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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Virgil Coursey  
Field Worker  
July 27, 1937

Interview with George D. Pendleton  
704 East Commerce  
Altus, Oklahoma

I came to Texas from Virginia in 1889. As a young man I worked with my brother in a drug store at Vernon and was a member of the board of pharmacists.

In 1892 I established a business two doors south of my present location in Altus. After about a year here I went to Chillicothe, Texas, and ran a drug store there, finally returning to Vernon. I married in 1893.

In 1900 some of my friends induced me to return to Altus, even offering to build me a house and a store for my business if I would come. I located on the north side of the square in a typical frontier frame building, with a board walk in front. I carried a nice line of drugs and had a small soda fountain. Dr. E. G. Spears had his office in my store as also did Mr. E. E. Russell, who sold jewelry.

Mr. Russell built the first stone store in Altus in 1903. The stone was hauled from Turkey Creek. I

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moved into this building in 1905 and have remained ever since. Mr. Russell also conducted his business in this store until he was forced to move to larger quarters. He was a fine man - a prince of a fellow.

In the early days medicines were mostly compounds, consisting mostly of patent medicines. We also carried a good supply of poisons for killing out prairie dogs.

I have been an active worker in the Baptist Church. Our church here still remains in the original location. The frame building was twice enlarged and finally torn down and rebuilt with brick

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Lodges furnished the chief means of social contact in the early days. Members attended the meetings regularly and looked forward to "lodge night".