

PEET, B. H. INTERVIEW

#9435

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

PEET, B. H.

INTERVIEW.

9435.

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal.

This report made on (date) December 17, 1937. 1937

1. Name B. H. Peet.

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) City.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 15 Year 1866.

5. Place of birth Buffalo Center, Iowa.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or sample to be furnished by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person mentioned in Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Ophelia D. Vestal,
Investigator,
December 17, 1937.

Interview With B. H. Peet,
Lawton, Oklahoma.

I was born in northern Iowa. Hearing of this country in the very early days, especially of Marlow, Duncan, and Fort Sill, I decided I would go adventuring, so I came to Duncan in 1896.

In 1898 I worked at Fort Sill as a carpenter for three years; when I first drove over to Fort Sill there wasn't as much as a house between Duncan and Fort Sill. There were two barbed wire gates which we had to open and a sort of a policeman who happened around to see if we closed the gates, too.

During my first days at Fort Sill, the Apaches were being held as prisoners. They were in what people called a stockade (a big pen) and soldiers were guarding them all the time.

On Sunday I remember very well, the Duncan people would have big barbecues and invite some of the soldiers down and bring some Indians to play ball. Several hundred people looked forward to going to Duncan to these feasts.

I was married at Duncan and decided to make that a permanent home. But we heard of lots of murders around there. I reckon the reason for this was that this was not a state, just the Indian Territory, and any crooks or bandits from other places thought that this was a kind of a wild country, so they would come here and hide. It didn't take very long for us to decide to locate somewhere else if we planned on a quiet, happy home.

In our family were born three girls and one boy.

Upon establishing our home in Comanche County, I started working at Fort Sill again and worked until I retired a few years ago.

I was one of the first petit jurors and served as clerk on the first Election Board held in Comanche County.