

HENDERSON, TOM

INTERVIEW

#9545

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

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Field Worker's name Raymond C. Jantz

This report made on (date) Wednesday, December 29, 1937

1. Name Tom Henderson

2. Post Office Address Fort Cobb

3. Residence address (or location) West Main Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 17 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Newberg, Indiana

6. Name of Father David Henderson Place of birth Scotland

Other information about father Coal miner

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Spitz Place of birth Indiana

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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Raymond C. Jantz,
Investigator,
December 29, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Tom Henderson,
Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

I came to this Indian Country in 1887 by wagon with my parents. They settled near Paoli. We lived near Paoli until the opening of old Oklahoma in 1889. This opening started at noon April 22, 1889. My parents made the run in a wagon. My father got a place three and one-half miles east and one half mile north of Noble.

In this opening I saw people on horseback, on foot, in prairie schooners, in carts, wagons, buggies and riding on mules.

Mail Carrier

In 1891 I received a job from the Government as mail carrier. I carried the mail from Paoli to Schredheart. This job I kept for five months. I rode horseback and had to go in all kinds of weather.

Anadarko

Anadarko at this time was only a trading post and

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and Kiowa Indian Agency. If I remember Anadarko was located farther north than it is now.

Railroads

In 1887 the Atchison-Topeka and Santa Fe built a line from Wellington, Kansas, to Purcell. There it was met by a line of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe from Galveston. The completion of these two roads connected the north and south together.

I sat on the top of a box car and watched them drive the Golden Spike. There were thousands of people there to watch this event. This event will always have its part in the settlement and development of Oklahoma.

This development made the cattlemen and Indians become alarmed. This together with the opening. Because people were establishing homes and industry.

I came to Fort Cobb in September 1901. I first opened a cafe and later a saloon which was the first in Fort Cobb. I ran this business for about a year and one-half. The first of the year (January 1, 1903) I got another job from the Government as rural route carrier. This route I covered

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with a buggy. I kept this job for about four and one-half years. Then I went into the corn milling business; this I ran for four years. From the corn milling business I went to farming and farmed for eight years. At this time I became postmaster at Fort Cobb and remained there for ten years until 1932.