



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

HILL, C. W.

INTERVIEW

10529

Field Worker's name Robert W. Small

This report made on (date) April 14, 1938

1. Name C. W. Hill

2. Post Office Address Newkirk, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) same

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 12 Year 1861

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father Henry Hill Place of birth North or South Carolina  
Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Addie Mallon Hill Place of birth Kentucky  
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 4.

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Robert W. Small,  
Investigator,  
April 14, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. C. W. Hill,  
Newkirk, Oklahoma.

I was born January 12, 1861, in the State of Illinois.

In 1898 I went from Joplin, Missouri, to Sapulpa, Indian Territory, to look for land to farm and I leased eighty acres from Timmie Fife, who claimed to be a French Indian. He was a member of the Indian Council in the Creek Nation, and a very fine man. I lived in a little log house on this land. When I first came to Sapulpa, my family were not with me; I drove a buggy and team from Joplin down there and worked from August until September in Sapulpa for \$1.25 a day. My family came in October.

In the winter I cut wood most all the time and hauled it to Sapulpa and sold it for \$1.00 a load.

There was no barn or shed for stock on the place so I built a shed for four horses out of poles and anything I could get that was inexpensive. My contract for lease was a verbal contract but I was to leave all improvements on land that I placed there. I was also to pay a one-third

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of all corn grown and one-fourth of all cotton, as rent for the land.

I put out thirty acres in corn and the frost killed it out and I replanted the land and it failed to come up to do any good, I took sick and my neighbors came in and planted the land over again, enough coming to help that they replanted the thirty acres in one day. I raised a good crop of corn but it was only worth from 25 to 30 cents a bushel. I had been compelled to borrow \$50.00 from a bank to buy feed and seed and to help on living expenses during the spring and summer. We had no cook stove but we got a dutch oven and my wife used that for making bread and similar cooking.

The second year I put out thirty acres in corn and five acres in cotton; the corn made a good yield again and the cotton made about two bales which I sold for about 12 cents per pound, there was no cotton gin at Sapulpa and I had to haul my cotton to Tulsa to a gin.

I got some hogs to feed my corn to and made good on them. I also raised some horses and got a cow and calf and gradually increased my cattle to seven head.

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I bought a pony from an Indian for \$5.00 and then traded the pony for a half interest in thirty acres of cotton which I picked and hired a man to haul to Tulsa, paying him \$2.50 a load to haul it, and I cleared over \$100.00 on the cotton crop I traded for.

We lived fifteen miles from Tulsa. The townsite of Sapulpa had not been surveyed and the Government surveyed it in 1898, and I secured two lots in the town that cost me nothing. There were three stores and a restaurant in Sapulpa at that time. I built a story and a half boxed house on the lots; the half story we used as a sleeping place for two of my children. A railroad wanted my lots for right-of-way and I sold them to the Company for \$600.00 and moved my house off the lots onto another lot that I had bought for \$25.00, and we lived there a year or so.

There were no public schools in Sapulpa at the time I went there and we sent our children to a subscription school which cost \$1.00 each month for each child enrolled. While we lived in town I went back and forth one mile from Sapulpa to my lease and farmed it until the five year lease

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expired.

About 1903, I moved to Guthrie, where I got a job selling pianos and we put our children in the Guthrie schools. I worked for several years selling pianos. My son and two daughters finished school in Guthrie; about that time I got a job selling buggies for the Spaulding Buggy Company and went to Texas, leaving my family in Guthrie. I drew a salary of \$100.00 a month and my expenses for selling buggies. I worked for the Spaulding people about four years when the demand for buggies began to wane, then I returned to my family at Guthrie. Soon after that I went to Muskogee and rented a farm which I farmed for one year; I then moved to the town of Muskogee and later moved to Crescent, and then to Newkirk, where my son was practicing law, and had established a lucrative business. I have since that time lived in Newkirk.