

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

270

HILL, ALFRED T.

INTERVIEW

4303

Field Worker's name Naomi L. Garringer

This report made on (date) May 27 1937

1. Name Alfred T. Hill

2. Post Office Address Medford, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Sec. 18 Township 28, Range 5

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 3 Year 1865

5. Place of birth Piqua County, Ohio

6. Name of Father Albert Hill Place of birth Ohio

Other information about father Fought in Civil War

7. Name of Mother Emily Galliard Place of birth Ohio

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 _____.

Naomi L. Garringer,
Field Worker,
May 27, 1937.

Interview with
Alfred T. Hill
Medford, Okla.

Alfred T. Hill was born in Piqua County, Ohio, July 3, 1865.

He made the race into the Cherokee Strip on horseback, staked a claim on section 18, township 28, Range 5, exactly seven miles south of the Kansas state line.

That same night he returned to his family. When he returned to his claim, the next day he found that a furrow had been plowed around it. Mr. Hill had returned in a wagon which he turned upside down leaving one end of the wagon box on the ground, the other end he hoisted up on a two-by-four plank. This he constructed into a house for the time being. Mr. Hill and this squatter had an argument but Mr. Hill, with the help of a double barrel shot gun, won the argument.

Mr. Hill built a sod house, a barn and a chicken house. Mrs. Hill did not come to Oklahoma until the following March. Mrs. Hill and the children then moved down to

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their new home.

They dug a well and were very much elated over the clear water which they found, only to be disappointed because it was so salty you could float an egg in a cup of water. They had to haul water about a mile.

Mrs. Hill spent the nights alone while Mr. Hill hauled straw twenty-four miles at two dollars a load. He hauled thirty-five loads, making seventy dollars, which was a sure means of having food for his wife and children.

Mr. Hill did all his trading at a small trading post which is now the town of Medford.

They had been having a number of large rains, when one day as Mr. Hill was going to town for provisions, he had to swim his mules across the river about four miles up stream. On his return home he could not ford the river so he had to go two miles out of his way. He had to cross a small crude bridge. While crossing this bridge, the single tree of his wagon broke, frightening his mules, causing them to fall into the stream. They attempted to swim out on the opposite side but could not so they turned around and swam down near

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the bridge. As they neared the bridge the suction was so strong that the mules were sucked down under the bridge and were drowned. Mr. Hill had attempted to get the mules apart but he could not reach them. This is only one of the many disasters which happened to the pioneers of Oklahoma.

The first two years their crops were a failure. The third year they had very good crops and from that time on Mr. Hill prospered rapidly. Today he has a nice home which still stands on the same ground that he staked in the opening of the Cherokee Strip.