

POWELL, W. H. (DR.)

INTERVIEW 4182

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

POWELL, W. H. (DR.)

INTERVIEW.

#4182

Field Worker's name John F. Dougherty

This report made on (date) May 26 1937

1. Name Dr. W. H. Powell,

2. Post Office Address Sulphur, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 6 Year 1872.

5. Place of birth La Fayette County, Mississippi.

6. Name of Father Jesse S. Powell Place of birth Illinois.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Hood Powell Place of birth S. Carolina

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 two.

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An Interview with Dr. W. H. Powell, Sulphur, Oklahoma.

By - John R. Dougherty - Field Worker.

May 26, 1937.

My parents were Jesse S. Powell and Elizabeth Hood Powell. Father was born in Illinois and mother was born in South Carolina. I was born in La Fayette County, Mississippi, February 6th, 1872.

I came to the Indian Territory, July 4, 1896. I located at Palmer, four miles north of the present site of Sulphur. A doctor had been killed here and I came to take his place. Those were hard times for a doctor. I boarded with George Whitley.

It was impossible to travel except on a horse. I rode horseback to make all my calls.

Many a night I have ridden all night in the rain, sleet and snow. It took three hours or longer to go ten miles. Many times a patient would have to wait five or six hours for me to get there. Some one would come on a horse and notify me that I was needed and then I would have to make the trip on my horse. There were no telephones and the only way I had of getting calls was for someone to come to my home. I filled my own prescriptions

as there were no drug stores near.

I covered my horses with leather covers to keep them warm in winter, and had nets for them in the summer, to keep the flies off. My horses were always spirited as I needed to make trips in a hurry.

I bought my first buggy in 1898. There were many places where I could not drive, but had to go on horseback.

I got a license to practice medicine in Ardmore in 1904. It cost ten dollars.

The mail came through Palmer on a Star Route from Davis to Roff. The mail carrier drove a buggy and hauled passengers. The trip was made daily. The post-office was in a store.
