

INKLEBARGER, HENDERSON C.

FIRST INTERVIEW #1338  
SECOND INTERVIEW. #1339

365

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

Field Worker's name Edna B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) April 27, 1937

1. Name Henderson C. Inklebarger
2. Post Office Address Route 2, Blair, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) Farm 10 miles E-Emiles H.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 20 Year 1857
5. Place of birth Granger County, Texas

6. Name of Father Meridith Inklebarger Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Eliza Cottner Place of birth Tennessee  
 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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Ethel B. Tackitt, Interviewer,  
April 27, 1937.

Interview with Henderson C.  
Inklebarger, Blair, Oklahoma

On May 6, 1887, I was living in Wise County, Texas, and I received a telegram informing me that my brother, Meridith Inklebarger, who had shortly before moved to Greer County, which is now Oklahoma, had died. I hastened to the assistance of his family, coming by train to Vernon, Texas, then across the country to his home or claim on which I yet live. I remained with them for several weeks, then it was decided that I should go back to Texas to arrange to move back and take charge of the claim. This I did, bringing back with me a small bunch of cattle and horses, a wagon and team, and some living equipment. I was unmarried at that time. I crossed Red River at Doan's Crossing and it took several days to make the trip. I followed the Chisholm Cattle Trail as it passed within one mile of my claim to the west. This trail was well worn, as thousands of head of cattle were driven over it to the Northern market from Texas each year. The old Oak tree that guided the herd

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to the Trail Crossing on North Fork is yet standing and I hope may soon be marked and protected.

When I arrived, the face of the country was a perfect picture of productiveness. The grass on the highlands was a mat of curly mesquite while the lowlands were covered with tall reeds and grass and the sand hills were a mass of blue-stem sage and sage brush, with clumps of plum bushes, grape vines, currant bushes and a kind of blackberry. The wild fruits were of the finest quality and flavor.

Deer, antelope, wild turkey, prairie chicken and quail were in abundance.

I planted mostly feed for my stock at first as there was no machinery in the country. But in 1893 I bought some cotton seed from neighbor<sup>A</sup> Casteel, who had brought it from Texas. I planted twelve acres and picked four bales of cotton. This I hauled to Navajo, ten miles south of me, and had it ginned by horse power on a gin that George Blalock and some others had rigged up by attaching the horse

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power by belt from the horse drawn threshing machine which they owned.

Wheat was beginning to be planted down in that section on the hard land but threshing machines were horse drawn and hard to get; also hard to drive over the country as the roads were unworked.

I early brought peach seed from Texas and planted them. These seed grew rapidly and soon I had a fine peach orchard. I proved up on this claim where I live and I have continued throughout the fifty years which I have lived there to plant fruit trees and, at this time, despite the many dry years, I have one of the best orchards in the country.

I have seen this locality pass from a beautiful wilderness to a thickly populated district with a fine consolidated school, hard surfaced highways; and the sand hills are now being plowed by tractor drawn farm implements of the latest model.