

Field Worker: Harry A. Dreyer
April 5, 1937

Interview of Dr. J. A. Ryan
Northwest 23rd Street East of
Clarence City, Oklahoma

Dr. Ryan, Oregon County, Decatur,
Missouri, 1857
Mrs. Ryan, Paducah, Missouri

Dr. Ryan, Father; at given
Mrs. Ryan, Father's name was Clark

Dr. J. A. Ryan, was born in Oregon County, Decatur,

Missouri, in 1857. He was in the military service for

several years in Texas and was married there.

He came to Oklahoma in 1876.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, S. D. in

1875. He was one of the first settlers in the town in 1876,

and was before the court.

He was a member of the court at that time.

He was a member of the court in Logan County, near Harrietta,

Oklahoma.

In order to move into the territory, it was necessary for

us to get permits to do so. We built our leases there but were not

permitted to own the property. Little land was in the country then.

They would lease the property from the government or Indians. Most

of the Indians around there were mixtures of Indian and whites. These

leases were from five to ten years, and some for nearly a life time,

being renewed from time to time.

The country seemed none other than a back wood country or

situated south of West Sherman Street, between State and Southern Pacific tracks, and is overgrown with underbrush, Johnson grass, weeds and other vegetation; the lot is now a hobo "jungle", discarded cars, rubbish and other material is scattered about the place. The brush is so dense that it is hard to discern the lead stones from street though only a few yards distant.

r. J. ... went to Montana in the cattle business in 1867. Made frequent trips to Canada in early "nineties", and in 1898 became citizen there in order to buy ranch of his own. He now lives in the "Wood" region in Canada, near Calgary, Alberta. He related that last herd of wild buffalo in the United States that was sold to the Canadian Government.

There was little or no disturbance by Indians around Oklahoma City. Only a "charivari" had all the farmers from west of the City rushing to town one evening, fearing the Kiowas and Comanches from around Pawnee and Cheyenne were making a raid on the city. They later discovered that gun shooting and bells ringing were the group "charivaring" a newly wedded couple.

The Cheyenne and Kiowas were peaceful. Oklahoma when first opened soon divided themselves into two groups. After the opening there was a dispute over the laying out of the town. South called themselves the Chickasaws and North called themselves the Seminole. They would have gatherings and the orators, or those that called themselves orators, would get up and talk to the crowd about how the town should be laid out for business section and for residence. Main street was the dividing line between those two rival parties. The

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of town and then north of Main street and it on north of
Main street.

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