

SIMS, N. A.

INTERVIEW

#12074

472

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma 12074

473

SIMS, N. A. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) November 3, 1937

1. Name Mr. N. A. Sims (white)

2. Post Office Address Blue, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Eight miles East of Durant.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 5 Year 1850

5. Place of birth Alabama

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

An Interview with Mr. N. A. Sims, Blue, Oklahoma.  
By - Lula Austin - Field Worker.  
November 3, 1937.

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I came to the Indian Territory from Texas on June 10, 1883. I arrived by train in Durant. There was a little depot, eight by ten feet in Durant. Fred Thompson was the agent. I asked him if I might leave my trunk and tool chest in the station overnight. He looked at me and said; "Heavens no! , can you see a place for anything? Leave them on the outside, no one will bother them."

I followed the carpenter's trade after my arrival here. I built the first three stores in Durant, also the first two story house, which was owned by John O'Riley.

I made coffins and my price for a coffin with handles was \$12.50. One day Jesse Gardner, a fullblood Choctaw, came to me to get a coffin made for his wife and daughter, both of whom had just died, and wanted me to take a cow and yearling for pay. I told him that I would.

When I went to claim my cow and calf he wouldn't

2

let me have them. I went to the judge and told him about it and he told me to come to the Mayhew Court.

I went; the courthouse was crowded and trial after trial came up and was settled in some way.

Late in the afternoon the judge called Jesse Gardner's name and asked him if he had a black and white cow and yearling. The Indian grunted yes, and the judge said, "Give them to Mr. Sims". The Indian grunted again and said; "Mr. Sims you know where the cow runs, go get her".

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