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Schools--Oklahoma Territory
Weather

Fieldworker: Hazel H. Haralson
April 7, 1937

122237

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. Aaron N. McDaniels(White)
Norman, Oklahoma

BORN December 21, 1866 at Mitchelville, Iowa
(In a log cabin)

PARENTS Father: Elliott McDaniel born in Michigan
Mother: Eliza Monroe born in Iowa

I was orphaned at an early age and began drifting at the age of 14. I farmed in Iowa and worked on a ranch in Western Kansas until 1888.

I attended Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, later teaching in Iowa, Kansas and Texas. It was my interest in school that brought me to Norman, when subscription schools were the only educational training offered for County children. My brother-in-law, John Linton contacted local school officials and advised me I would have no difficulty in obtaining a position.

I came here from Galveston, Texas, having previously taught at Austin and Prairie Lea, Texas. I immediately passed teachers exam for certificate. I was made member of County Examination Board for issuing certificates to teachers. At that time there were only seven counties in Oklahoma and school work was financed from a federal grant of \$50,000.

After taking part in school work for two years during which time I organized the Norman Public Schools, arranging for schools

to run four months. School opened in February. I was Superintendent and my helpers were Ruse Hester, Hattie Williams, Lydia Burk, now of Oklahoma City, and Anna Heddens who was killed in 1893 in cyclone northwest of Norman. I taught in County Normal during the summer session.

The school was of frame construction, with bench and desk made of lumber, wood stoves and painted boards for blackboards. After organizing Public Schools I taught in the High Gate College, a Methodist school, for one term and then bade teaching goodbye to enter business. At first I was in feed business for a short while, later entering into Real Estate and Insurance business.

I audited the books for the Bank of Norman which was the second bank of Norman and served as City Clerk--was serving in that capacity when City water system was established. At that time there were twenty four water users. There were no meters and two rates were charged--a business rate and a residence rate. While on a trip to buy a cow near Noble I lost the City water record. The book was found by a farmer and returned later.

(End)