

SLAWSON, WILLIAM AZRA

INTERVIEW

422B.173

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Ethel E. Palmer

This report made on (date) May 28, 1937. 1937

1. This legend was
sourced from (name) William Azra Slawson.

Address Leedey, Rural Route.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story April 19, 1892, filed on
farm. Race to Oklahoma. Northwest Oklahoma, Section 14 Town-
ship 16 Range 19.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached 2

Ethel E. Palmer,
Interviewer.

5-28-37.

An Interview With William Azra Slawson,
Leedey, Oklahoma.

I was born in Union Parish, Louisiana, in 1866. I filed on land in the Northwestern part of Oklahoma, on section fourteen, township sixteen, range nineteen. The reason I settled in this particular place was because I wanted bottom land, and to be as close to the river as I could. I knew from the amount of water that ran in the river that the vapor would rise, giving the crops more moisture; I found this to be a fact.

Two friends, my brother and myself made the run in April 19, 1892. We started this side of Anadarko on Deer Creek in a covered wagon. When the guns fired everyone started, some on horses, some in buggies, and some in covered wagons. Some started on the run. We took our time to begin with, and passed a number of the people on the way.

Our first home was under a big tree, which still stands. We had no stove on which to do our cooking. We would build a fire out under the tree, place our bread in a skillet with a lid on it, then place coals on the lid. This cooked the bread on both sides.

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I remember one day it began raining. All the protection we had was to crawl under the bed. About the time we all got under the bed, here came a pig and got under the bed with us. As soon as we could, we built a half dugout.

We had lots of fish those days. I have helped get fish by the tubful. We also had wild turkeys but few deer.

We would go about fifty miles to Goodard to buy our food, also Taloga, about thirty miles. I walked there once and carried ^{a twenty-} five pound sack of flour, and a small sack of sugar home. Both of these places are still in existence, but have improved a great deal.

We used to raise a great many watermelons. We would go over to the quartermaster to sell them. We would give the Indians one to get them to dance for us. They could really dance. They would have bells on which would really tinkle.