

HURLEY, D. H.

INTERVIEW

9425

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

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HURLEY, D. H.

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Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford.

This report made on (date) December 15, 1937. 1937

1. Name D. H. Hurley.

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 3 Year 1876.

5. Place of birth Missouri.

6. Name of Father David C. Hurley. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Sarah A. Jones. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother Housewife.

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 2.

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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator;
Dec. 15, 1937.

An Interview With D. H. Hurley.
Cordell, Oklahoma.

I came to Washita County, January 1, 1893. We came in a covered wagon, and were on the road three weeks. There were no roads and only a few trails and we traveled by compass and the grass was so high, we could hardly travel at all.

Every night we would try to get to a creek before we made camp because the grass was dry and would catch fire easily.

We had to ford the rivers and creeks any place we could.

I filed on land and dug a dugout; I had to fence my land before I could break the sod on account of others herding my cattle and other cattle running in on my crops.

We did not make good crops and did not receive much for what we did make and sell. We got from 5 to 6 cents a pound for cotton and 20 cents a bushel for corn and then we would have to haul it to El Reno and Vernon, Texas, before we would get that much for it. El Reno and Vernon, Texas, were the closest markets. We did not have any railroads in the old days.

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In the winter of 1895, I camped on the Washita River all winter and herded cattle and if a cow got out I had a herd law bill to pay.

We did not know what roads, churches or schools were in those days. Later, we built dugouts and sod houses and had schools and churches in them and we would sit on benches made out of cottonwood poles.

The Indians were always my friends. I gave them all my cattle that died while I was camped on the Washita River in the winter of 1895 and the Indians would come in droves to get the dead cows and the old squaws would jump out of their wagons and start butchering the dead cattle.

I have cut the ice on the Washita River and gotten yellow catfish that weighed twenty-five pounds or more and they were good with black coffee and corn bread.

I do a great deal of fishing and hunting now.

HURLEY, MARVIN. OKLAHOMA OIL AND TULSA

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