

SMITH, ROBERT LEE.

INTERVIEW.

315
8182

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

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SMITH, ROBERT LEE - INTERVIEW.

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes.

This report made on (date) August 10, 1934

1. This legend was secured from (name) Robert Lee Smith

Address Geary, Oklahoma. Rural Route 1

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

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

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

.....attached. _____ (.....)

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Barnes, Louise S.- Interviewer.
Indian Pioneer History-S149.
August 10, 1937.

Interview with Robert Lee Smith
Geary, Oklahoma.

In 1893, about Thanksgiving, I started from the point where Geary now stands to El Reno with a load of posts. I received \$3.00 for the whole load and I was getting my groceries and fixing to make the return trip to my home, when a man came up and wanted me to take a load of fruit trees, barbed wire, meat and groceries to Arapaho.

I loaded my wagon with the freight and started from El Reno at noon and arrived at my dugout three miles west of where Geary now stands, in the night. I unhitched my horses and gave them some feed and stayed the rest of the night, leaving at nine the next morning for Arapaho. I forded the South Canadian River about noon and camped on Deer Creek, where Hydro now stands, that night.

A terrible blizzard came up that night and the weather was awful cold. A fellow on horseback shared my camp site for the night and I was sleeping on the ground and was so close to the fire trying to keep warm that my bed-

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ding caught on fire. I had some straw under my covers, so grabbed the bedding off and put it out but let the straw burn.

I got so cold I continued on my way at two o'clock in the morning, without stopping to get any breakfast. It snowed on me all the way to Arapaho and I was nearly frozen when I reached there, about two o'clock in the afternoon. I unloaded my load, fed the team and ate my lunch at a lunch counter. I then bought some more hay and started on my way home that night.

It had quit snowing but the snow had drifted very deep in places. I had only driven ten miles before I had to camp. I saw a dugout and went to ask if I might stay and when I knocked a man said, "Come in". When I stepped in I knew he was very sick and cold, so I built up a large fire and cooked him some beef to eat; he had not eaten for several days because he was not able to cook. I then took care of my horses and his yoke of oxen.

I left the next morning after seeing that the man would be all right, and drove home, arriving about sundown. I was on the road four days and part of four nights, boarded myself and received \$6.00 for the trip.

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Starr, Ellis

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