

HOWARD, WALTER B.

INTERVIEW

#4829

314

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

HOWARD, WALTER B.

INTERVIEW.

4829

Field Worker's name Virgil Coursey

This report made on (date) July 13, 1937

1. Name Walter B. Howard

2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 702 East Pecan

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 17 Year 1883

5. Place of birth Virginia

6. Name of Father A. L. Howard Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Jane Carpenter Place of birth Kentucky

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 3.

HOWARD, WALTER B.

INTERVIEW.

4829

An Interview with
Walter B. Howard,
702 East Pecan, Altus, Oklahoma

My father and mother moved from Williamson County, Texas, to Oklahoma Territory, in 1886.

There were seven children. I was two and ^a/_{half} years of age. We settled two miles north of Navajoe. Father died in 1900. Mother filed on the place and bought one-quarter section in addition. I now own the place that Mother filed on.

I suppose there were not more than a dozen settlers in that country in 1886. This was mostly a ranching country with small farms scattered here and there.

We got our mail at Doans, Texas. This was such a long trip that we could get our mail only about once a month. All supplies were hauled from Vernon which was a three-day trip.

Navajoe was a trading place with the Indians. My eldest brother used to trade watermelons to the Indians for clothes and blankets.

I was never arrested for getting wood in the Indian Territory, but my older brothers were.

HOWARD, WALTER B.

INTERVIEW.

4829

2

When Poline, the Comanche Indian Chief, was killed, my mother and we smaller children went across Red River for safety because it was feared that there would be trouble. My father went to the scene of trouble. The sheriff and some selected men went across the river into the Indian Territory and had a conference with the Indians and the trouble was soon cleared up.

My mother had another scare one day when some Indians came by and tried to talk to her. They made marks on the ground and seemed excited. My mother thought they were going to kill us and bury us where they had marked on the ground. We learned later that they had lost some cattle and were trying to show us the brand.

My father was one time tax assessor. He died in 1900 and was one of the first persons buried in Navajoe cemetery. After his death my older brother, Warren, took most of the responsibility of managing our affairs. Warren is an old cow man and spent several years working with the Herring Chain C Ranch. He now lives at Warren.

I was married in 1903, my wife's people having settled at Navajoe in 1901.

HOWARD, WALTER B.

INTERVIEW.

4829

3

I believe I would be safe in saying that I have probably spent more time in Jackson County than any other man living. It is true that there are many who came here earlier than I and who are older than I, but so many have moved away and stayed a number of years before returning. I have never lived outside of the county and have never been out of the county very many times and for only a day or so then.