

TERRY, CHAS. HOWARD. INTERVIEW. 8108 445

TERRY, CHAS. HOWARD.

INTERVIEW.

8108

Form A-(S-149)

446

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) July 28 1938

1. Name Chas. Howard Terry

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 910 East Hurd Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 17 Year 1892

5. Place of birth Three miles south of Edmond, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father Miles Lee Terry Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Born in 1867

7. Name of Mother Betty C. Sheldon Terry Place of birth Knetucky

Other information about mother Born in 1868.

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 4.

Mildred B. McFarland  
Interviewer  
July 28, 1937

Interview with Chas Howard Terry  
910 East Hurd Street, Edmond, Oklahoma.

My uncle, Warren Sheldon, started from Cynthiana, Kentucky, in the spring of 1889, for Oklahoma. He had read of the wonderful opportunity in land to be opened for settlement April 22, 1889. He made the Run from the south, and staked his claim about three miles south of Edmond. He rode on the cow-catcher of the engine, and when the train stopped he jumped off and ran three miles before placing his flag.

He made a dugout in which to live. He lived in this for one year. In the meantime he was collecting logs and preparing them to build a two room log cabin. After this was finished he sold the place to my father and moved back to Kentucky.

Father built an extra room on the cabin. My parents had never seen cotton growing before coming to Oklahoma. They planted ten acres of it to see what it was like but they did not know how to pick it. They took gallon buckets to the field to pick their cotton in. It took them two weeks to pick four hundred pounds. They got so tired my father offered to give the rest of the field away but the man refused it. In 1891 Father bought the

TERRY, CHAS. HOWARD.

INTERVIEW

8108

2

first thrashing machine in Oklahoma and he thrashed for all the community. The first year he thrashed ninety thousand bushels of grain. He kept the thrasher two years then secured a job as engineer in the first flour mill in Oklahoma County in 1893. He worked there for several years while he hired outside help to farm the land.

One extremely cold night my father rode horseback to Edmond in search of a doctor. The snow and sleet were so thick a person could not see six feet in front of him. A man was found frozen to death on the street a few minutes after father and the doctor left town. When they arrived at home they found I had arrived before them. The doctor's chin whiskers and moustache had frozen together. I was born in a real blizzard.

My earliest recollection of our home and furniture is very vivid. Father had bought a cook stove and all the rest of the furniture was home-made. Our beds were fastened to the wall with pieces of leather for hinges. In the daytime they were folded up flat against the wall and held there with rope extended from the ceiling. The tables were made of native lumber. The chairs were made of split logs, smoothed on the flat

TERRY, CHAS. HOWARD.

INTERVIEW.

8108

3

side and with three wooden pegs for the legs on the rounded side. The top or smooth side was covered with cow-hide. We secured our water from a spring close by. Mother made our carpet by hand and when she was ready to put it on the floor Father would bring in great armloads of oat straw and spread evenly on the floor and then they tacked the carpet down on the straw. This was stretched very tight and when it was finished it was two or three inches thick.

There were plenty of wild turkey, deer, squirrel, rabbits, prairie chickens and an occasional buffalo in this country at that time.

When I was about ~~three~~ years old the neighbors for miles around would come to our house and hold their singing school. It sometimes turned into a dance. On the Fourth of July there was a big celebration in Edmond. The main event was a horse race. The main street was used as the race track. Anyone could enter their horse.

The boys of our community used to make and fly kites for pastime. One day several Kickapoo Indians, from the reservation about fifteen miles east of Edmond, came to town as we were flying our kites. They were fascinated with them and gave us one dollar apiece for them.

TERRY, CHAS. HOWARD.

INTERVIEW.

8108

4

These Indians would bring their ponies to Edmond to sell. We could buy them for from \$5.00 to \$15.00 apiece.

The first City Hall stood where the Student's Eat Shoppe now is located at 15 North Broadway. It was a one-story frame building, erected in 1891. The walls are part of the original building.

The fire-department was very unique. It was called the bucket brigade. It consisted of a hand-drawn spring wagon with racks on the sides to hold fifteen or twenty buckets. There were about four to six barrels of salt water to each town block for the water supply for fires. The fire alarm was three pistol shots.

The town marshal was always chairman of the bucket brigade. The sidewalks were made of wooden boards.

I have lived in and around Edmond all my life, watching it grow. My wife, five children and I were all born within a radius of five miles of Edmond. We are distant relatives of Daniel Boone and Lord Baltimore of Maryland.

INDEX CARDS

Westville  
Shoemakers--Cherokee Nation  
Agencies--Cherokee

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor  
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149.

March 4, 1937

Frank J. Still  
Field Worker

Interview: Samuel L. Tewell

Samuel L. Tewell, who lives at 403 Coy St., Tahlequah, Oklahoma was born in Georgia in 1876. He is a white man.

Father - Edd Tewell

Mother - Adaline Monroe Tewell

They came to Cane Hill, Arkansas in 1879. He came to Oklahoma in 1898.

SHOE SHOP IN TAHLEQUAH

I built the first house in Westville that was built by a white man, just northwest of depot. Albert Alberty, Bill Williams and Jim Holland had the only business houses in Westville, Okla.

I came to Tahlequah in 1901. My brother and I went into the shoe and boot making business. We made lots of boots for the early cow boys. We were in the shoe and boot making business twenty-three years.

My first school and only that I ever attended was at Cane Hill, Arkansas. Capt. Carnayhan, Major Earl and a Miss Cole were the teachers there. William Allison of Tahlequah was my school mate. Dr. Tom Allison of Sand Springs, Oklahoma was going to Cane Hill School when I was there, also Dr. John Allison of Tahlequah was going there.

I put in the first produce business in Tahlequah, Okla. I also put in the first second hand store that was in Tahlequah. Old man Appletree Smith, then living out west of town on the old Indian Agency, was my first customer after I opened up my produce business. He brought in a load of turkeys and I asked him what he wanted for them and he said that he had to