

PRICE, JAMES C.

INTERVIEW

#12421

61

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

PRICE, JAMES C. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) December 14, 1937.

1. Name James C. Price

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, General Delivery

3. Residence address, (or location) West of the bend in the  
Dustin Road.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father Marmaduke Price Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Millie Price Place of birth Missouri

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

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An Interview with Mr. James C. Price, Henryetta.

By - Grace Kelley - Investigator.

December 14, 1937.

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In 1897 I brought my wife and three children in a covered wagon from Texas. We crossed the Red River just east of where Courtney is, passed through Cornish and Healdton. Both of these places were small, just having two or three stores.

My uncle, John Price, had a ranch twenty-five miles west of Ardmore and we had corresponded quite a bit for those days. He told me about the good farms around him so I decided to move near him. That was a white settlement with just a few Indians. There were no schools nor churches in that neighborhood. The farms were all fenced in with rail fences, the pastures being open or unfenced.

There was a store and a post office about a mile west of us or twenty-six miles west of Ardmore. A man named Wheeler owned it who was part Indian. We bought some things from him but went to Ardmore when we needed to get a lot of things as we took our produce there to

sell. The stock was driven to Ardmore where there was a railroad and shipped from there. The mail was brought from Ardmore every other day by horseback; it was the only store on that route so the postman made a round trip.

I had been hearing that the country north was better than the place where I had farmed for two years, so in 1899 I loaded my family into a wagon and started out. I didn't have a certain location in mind but was just looking for a place to start a good farm. We went north from our place near the Wheeler store to Purcell where we crossed the Canadian River on a toll bridge. Fifty cents was charged for one wagon and team. Then we went east and north to Shawnee where we forded the North Canadian River. The Cimarron was crossed at Cushing. We were on the road for fifteen days and camped out at night. When we got to Pawnee I got a job cutting cord wood for Sitting Bull, four miles south of Pawnee.

I worked all that winter cutting cord wood for a dollar a rick and I suppose I cut over a hundred ricks.

I liked Sitting Bull very well and he treated me fair. He couldn't talk English as we do but you could.

understand what he was telling.

He had a big gun. I don't know what kind it was but I'd call it a buffalo gun. He would pet this gun like he was petting a dog and say, "Mabe so me kill a hundred Mexicans". When I asked him how old he was he said, "Me over hundred years old". He was an old warrior but he wasn't that old. He has been dead several years now.

All these Indians lived near Pawnee Town - like a colony. When you got fifteen miles away there were not any Indians.

#### RAILROADS.

There was a railroad at Pawnee but that was twenty-five miles away from where I started to farming in the spring. In 1900 a spur of the Santa Fe came from Guthrie and stopped at Sinnett for quite a while, later it went on into the Osage country.

#### SINNETT

Sinnett had one store, a gin, blacksmith shop and a doctor. They also had a free school.