

REYNOLDS, H. H.

INTERVIEW.

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REYNOLDS, H. H. INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

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

4867

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) July 19, 1937

Name Henry H. Reynolds

Post Office Address Ferry, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) 726 Elm street

DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 27 Year 1862

Place of birth Waitsville, Missouri

Name of Father Wm. H. Reynolds Place of birth Lynn County, Kentucky

Other information about father Injured in Civil War-losing right limb

Name of Mother Jane (Piatola) Reynolds Place of birth White County, Tennessee  
1841

Other information about mother none

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## PIONEER DAYS

Interview with H. H. Reynolds.  
726 Elm street, Perry Oklahoma.

Henry H. Reynolds, son of William R. and Jane (Pistole) Reynolds, was born September 27, 1862, near Waitesville, Missouri.

In 1892 my father and I came to the country known as "No Man's Land". This was a neutral piece of land lying between Texas on the south, Kansas and Colorado on the north and Indian Territory on the east and New Mexico on the west.

At this time there was some question as to where it would be annexed to Texas or the Indian Territory.

We located near Beaver City, later we established a post office and named it Logan. (This is still operating) I carried the mail from Lockwood, a distance of six miles, on horseback. This was called the pony express. We also operated a small store with this post office.

We built a sod house about 20x36 feet square which we used for this store and office. We carried a line of groceries and mercantiles, such as work clothes and notions. This merchandise and groceries were freighted by wagon and team from Englewood, Kansas, and the lumber came from Arizona.

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or ferries then, the fording of the Cimarron River often proved quite dangerous on account of quicksand. Our home was built of sod, but we had windows and a wood floor in it. The sides and roof was of the sod. It was a 3 room house.

The main fuel was "buffalo chips". We could get wood at a place forty miles from there with out any cost but the distance for hauling was so great we did not go for it very often.

In April, 1889, I, with six companions, started for the opening of old Oklahoma, riding cow ponies. We went by way of Camp Supply and on to St. Reno, where we spent the night before the race.

On April 22, we made the race and I staked a claim on Uncle John Creek about ten miles from Kingfisher. I failed in proving up on this, therefore, did not secure the land, and in May, 1889, I went to Guthrie and as that part of the town known as West Guthrie was open for settlement, I ran a foot race and secured four lots, which is now in the residence part of West Guthrie.

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On these lots I set out some Maple trees and some of them that have survived are now about two and one half feet through. Shortly after this in the summer of 1888, a man named Warren and I went into the cattle business as partners.

In 1891 we were in the Seminole Country on the North Canadian River when we got the news of the opening of the Black and Fox and Iowa reservation. We got this news about noon and as the race was to be the next day we employed a white man, J. R. Harris, and an Indian boy to take care of our cattle and we started for the reservation. We rode our cow ponies and kept going all night, reaching the starting line shortly before the time for the signal to go.

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The starting line was patrolled by Government soldiers. After the race started where we came to Deep Fork Creek, the bank was straight down and five or six feet high. There did not seem to be any trails near, so we forced our ponies to jump in the creek, the one Warren was riding landed on a boggy spot, and we thought for a while we would not get him out. After we succeeded in crossing we went on and I staked a claim about ten miles southeast of

Grandier. I heard that the file I found it had already  
been filed, therefore I lost my mind. I returned to  
the Pennington County and later we found the cattle  
north and wintered them on the land, as was and secured.

I lived in a tent last winter, and during the winter  
I was very ill. I was in bed for a long time and  
did not get up. I was very weak and I was  
unable to do any work. I was very ill and I was  
unable to do any work.

In the winter of 1902 I went to Muskogee City,  
Mississippi, where I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle.

At one time I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle.

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... and we went to camp (as there was no camp there),  
and we had to go to the river. This crossing was quite  
difficult, but we made it. I was very ill and I was  
unable to do any work.

In September 1902, I started on the river. I was  
in the Indian Agency, a river at a station. I was  
west of Milocco. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle. I was in the Indian Agency  
to get the cattle.

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finally crossing at the mouth, then went on to the Salt Fork, crossing this same point near where Tonkawa is now located. There was a crossing here known as Yellow Bull crossing.

I staked a claim in the north part of Noble county. After filing I returned to Muskirk where my wife and I ran a hotel during the winter.

In the spring of 1894, I built a house on the claim I had secured in the race. This was a one room box house size 12x14 feet. I also staked a dugout for storage and a cyclone cave. The stable or barn was also of the dugout type. Soon afterward I was appointed deputy United States Marshal under E. D. Nix, who was the United States Marshal for Indian Territory. This was during President Cleveland's term.

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This work required me to be at Guthrie so much, as the Federal prison was located there, that I sold the land I had secured and moved my family to Guthrie.

Soon afterward I was elected Chief of Police which office I held for three terms. In 1906 I entered the real estate business and for a period of ten years, I was a realtor.

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In 1916, I moved to the Osage country near Avant, where I was in the cattle business. In 1922 I moved to Perry, Noble county, where I went into real estate and insurance work. I am still working at this same work and live at 726 Elm street.

During my residence in Perry, I have been elected Mayor three terms. I am a charter member of the old Settlers Association of Interoke, and served as President during the year of 1936.