

RICHARDS, WILLIAM MADISON

INTERVIEW

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Elizabeth L. Duncan, Journalist  
October 9, 1937.

Interview with W. M. Richards  
R. R. 1, Medford, Oklahoma.  
Born May 11, 1865, Illinois.  
Father-James K. Richards.  
Mother-Mary Katherine Mansfields

William Madison Richards was born in Ogden,  
Champaign County, Illinois, May 11th, 1865. He  
lived there with his parents until he was fourteen  
years old, then moved to Wichita, Sedgwick County,  
Kansas.

In the spring of 1882, a number of neighbors  
got together and said they were going to Lamar,  
Colorado. Some of them were taking more than one  
wagon. One of the closest neighbors came to Mr.

Richards' father and asked if William could go  
with him to drive the extra wagon. He gave his  
consent.

Upon his return from Colorado, four neighbor  
boys came to him and asked him to join them as

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they were going out to Seward County, Kansas, to homestead. He told them he was not old enough to take a homestead. One of the boys told him that if he would go they would help him out. So William went with them and took a homestead by telling the officials he was older than he was. The boys proved up on the places and then they finally all drifted to one place and then to another, leaving the places to William.

William lived on his homestead until 1886. He then left his homestead and came down into the Territory to look for work. He finally secured work on the Timberlake Ranch, riding the range. The ranch was located southeast of the Drumm Ranch. The Drumm Ranch was very large. The closest town was Anthony, Kansas.

This country was nothing but a wide open range and as far as you could see, there were no houses,

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only the ranch houses and corrals. There was very little fencing but around each farm there was plowed a fire guard designating the boundary of each ranch.

William's duty was to ride the range, to look after the cattle and to keep what fence there was repaired. Then in the spring, the ranchers would go together and each ranch would put out a certain number of men from each ranch to go on these roundups.

Mr. Timberlake would put out seven boys to go on these spring roundups. They would go south to the Texas line and begin to drive the cattle northward.

They would stop at each ranch so they could cut out their own cattle and then they would move on picking up the stray cattle until the next ranch corral was reached then this rancher's cattle were cut out and then the boys moved on. This procedure was followed until the Dunn Ranch was reached. Here, the cattle



EDWARD, WILLIAM, JR.

APRIL 7, 1892.

The Cheyennes took them and went  
northwest, etc. etc. The people learned  
later that the Cheyennes had taken the  
went in and out and did a lot of things, where they  
plundered, killing, etc. etc. The people  
and they got out of it. When the Cheyennes  
the, some of the people were killed. The  
the Cheyennes took the people and  
killed them and never did any more.

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after getting the people out of the  
the Cheyennes took the people and  
killed them and never did any more.  
The Cheyennes took the people and  
killed them and never did any more.  
The Cheyennes took the people and  
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The Cheyennes took the people and  
killed them and never did any more.

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would  
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 of his brothers  
 father's  
 the  
 William asked  
 him. At the time his father did not know how much

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father "Raty" was than the little mare so he tended, learning about the facts later.

Clinton and William came down to Cameron to register and had to stay there for about four days before they got to register. After registering they then went to Bluff City so they could make the run from there.

The day before the run the people began to pack so they could get away to make the next morning. When the day arrived, it was all hustle and bustle to get the remaining things together. It was very hard to keep one's place as there was much shoving and pushing.

Before the race had taken place, William had run across a fellow with a pair of fast horses. William offered him twenty-five dollars to ride with him, but he refused, so William went back to



RICHARDS, WILLIAM (1810-1882). Interview. 1882.

... the "hunts" ... they set out ...

... at twelve noon ... and face with every ... was very ... did not affect the spirits of the ... were ... a fire spreading ... there ...

... and his brother were ... the land that the Timberlake ... William ... for the last time, ... tangled in it ... for the well.

... on their way ... the other horse were outrunning everything. They passed the fellow

RECEIVED [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

holding [unclear] [unclear]

the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

were [unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

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[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

first. The [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]



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After filling all farm went back to the homestead and began to build a box house, twelve by twenty feet. He hauled all lumber from Round Lake, stayed the rest of the winter at the place then in the fall of 1894, went back to Ozden, Illinois, to work for the Union News Company. He worked for the news company, someone burnt the box house down. William found this out and quit the job he had and came back to his place the first of January, 1895, and built another shed, ten by twelve feet. He then went back to Illinois to a farm land.

William stayed in business for a year. After working there a year, he went back to Round Creek and secured a job with the Liberty Feed Store in 1896. He worked for them for three years.

In 1899, he secured a job with the Walton Lumber Company. While he was working in Round Creek, he would go back and forth out to the homestead.

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On October 7, 1900, William was married to Minnie Davenport. They moved out on the Walton place to feed Walton's cattle. They lived there until spring then moved to their own homestead. William dug a sixteen feet well and struck good water. They lived there from March until May, then sold out and moved in to Bond Creek in June when he went to work for Walton's Lumber Company. He worked for almost seven years all together for Mr. Walton. While working there he witnessed the hanging of a negro in front of James Knox's Saloon. They strung him up to a telephone pole and let him hang there all night.

William quit the Walton Lumber Company and moved on to the Ross farm. He farmed it two years, then found a farm he wanted to rent but did not know who owned it, but he moved on to it and yet he did not give up hunting to see who owned it.

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William then came to Medford to see if the taxes had been kept up on the place and to whom it belonged. He paid the back taxes on it and wrote to the fellow after learning where he was located by accident. His name was Gibboney. He was in Colorado and had forgotten all about the place. He figured it was gone a long time ago. Mr. Gibboney was so grateful he told William he could stay on the place as long as he wanted to and that he never would under-rent him.

William and his wife have lived there twenty-nine years on the same place.