

RIGGINS, JOHN

INTERVIEW

#9442

196

RIGGINS, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

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

Field Worker's name Ide B. Leukford,

This report made on (date) December 16, 1937

1. Name John Riggins,

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 120 N. Temple

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 7 Year 1857

5. Place of birth Coatsville, Missouri

6. Name of Father Andrew Riggins Place of birth Middle of Tennessee.

Other information about father Blacksmith

7. Name of Mother Sarah Jones Place of birth Alabama.

Other information about mother Housewife.

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 Four

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Ida B. Dankford,  
Investigator.  
December 16, 1957.

Interview with John Riggins,  
120 N. Temple, Cordell, Oklahoma.

I was born in Coatsville, Missouri, August 7, 1857.

My parents left there in the year 1860 when I was only three years old and went to North Arkansas. I stayed there until I was married and then moved to Texas.

From Texas we moved to Oklahoma and landed in Mountain View on December 26, 1892. Then in March, 1893, I filed on one hundred and sixty acres of land, stayed on it for a few months and then sold the land for an old horse as I was sick and didn't see how I could take care of the place. Later, this hundred and sixty acres was sold for \$10,000.00.

I went back to Texas and stayed three years. Then we came back to Oklahoma in covered wagons and have been here ever since.

I raised cotton, corn and kaffir corn; we would market the cotton for 3¢ a pound and the corn was from 15¢ to 20¢ a bushel.

RIGHTS, JOHN

REPORT

#0449

We would then come for fuel and on over the prairie  
to gather now and let them dry then burn them  
with coal.

In those days dugouts and were glad to see them  
we didn't have no school or church houses, we had  
dugouts and had school and church in the same place.

I have seen as many as fifteen deer in a line  
across the prairie and many more of wild turkeys  
came in big droves. The men would get on horseback and  
run the turkeys down. There were lots of quails, prairie  
chickens and rattlesnakes. We would find big snakes in

our dugouts and lots of wild cats in the river bottoms.

I remember the big prairie fires breaking out and  
one day I started to town and saw a fire coming  
was on horseback and I out ran the fire. Those were  
scary times.

When coming to this country my father drove a big  
pair of oxen to a covered wagon and I drove a team of  
horses to another covered wagon. A boy rode a horse

RIGGINS, JOHN

INTERVIEW

#9448

and drove the cattle. A blizzard would come up and we would almost freeze to death. We would try to get to a canyon to camp so the wind would blow the flour out of the mill before we could make bread.

I well remember freighting from Minna. There were three wagons of us; we stopped and camped one night and a blizzard blew up so we had to stay three days and nights. We got out of feed for the stock and grub for ourselves. We tried to get into Minna and one man froze to death; we all nearly froze before we got there. These were really hard times and the women and children were at home burning corn and cow chips trying to keep warm as we did not have a door shutter to our dugouts.

One night my wife said that a wild beast came and backed our dogs up into the doorway so she turned the table across the doorway.

My wife made all of our clothes; she made my suits and I would be so proud of them. The cloth was jeans. I would wear them to church and I was really dressed up.

ARTGONS, JOHN,

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#9442,

She made our shirts out of old cotton nicking socks.  
So would go to the Washita River to get walnut bark  
and dye the shirts.

I have worked many days and then would take one

session of massages.

I remember one time we were out of bread and also  
flour so my wife traded a quilt to J. Young for a  
sack of flour and oh how proud we were to have some  
biscuits.

The Indians were my friends and very good ones.