

JARNAGIN, J. A.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma 8058

JARNAGIN, J. A. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Maude M. Fink

This report made on (date) July 15, 1937

1. Name J. A. Jarnagin

2. Post Office Address Clinton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 900 North 18th Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1870

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father Alexander Jarnagin Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father Carpenter.

7. Name of Mother Jane Katts Place of birth Arkansas.

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 _____.

An Interview with Mr. J. A. Jarnagin, Clinton.

By - Maud M. Fink - Field Worker.

July 15, 1937.

Mr. Jarnagin came from Eastland County, Texas, to Blair, Oklahoma Territory, in 1889. Hugh Tittle was the County Sheriff.

There was a little trouble with the Indians here.

A boy killed an Indian in Kiowa County. The boy came across the road with his hands up and the sheriff arrested him. The Indians were on the warpath but the boy came clear.

The country around Blair was all free grass. Greer County was in Texas and Texas claimed the land as far as the Red River. Oklahoma and Texas got into a lawsuit over Greer County and Oklahoma won out.

The Government located Hobart as one of the county seats. The Orient Railroad ran through Hobart and Altus, and they wanted another town between these two places so they built Blair. The Orient Railroad went on up through Lone Wolf.

Oats, wheat, kaffir corn, maize and cotton were raised thirty-eight or thirty-nine years ago. The first cotton they raised they hauled fifty miles to a gin. The gins were some

what like they are today; six bales a day was a big day's work. Their flour was freighted from Vernon, Texas.

At Old Dot, south of Blair, at Altus and at Mangum, one could get most anything. Ben Zin ran the store at Dot.

The mail came from Vernon, Texas, to Altus. It was a Star Route and was carried in just a common old hack. When the river was up the man who drove the hack would wade the river and hold the sack with the mail in it above his head to keep the mail from getting wet. Mr. Garbo was the man who drove the hack.

Some people then did not know who was elected President until a year later. The only paper anyone around there took was the Dallas News.

Mr. Jarnagin made the trip from Texas in two covered wagons with his wife and family and it took three weeks to make the trip. They got snow bound at Seymour, Texas, and this delayed them two or three days.

His occupation was farming, trading and stealing wood. People lived in dugouts; there were no schools and churches. They had no furniture. They ate anything they could get hold of. There were a lot of snakes, mostly bull snakes and coach whips and rattlesnakes.