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ANDERSON, WILLIAM E.

INTERVIEW

4316

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Field Worker: Elizabeth L. Duncan,  
June 2, 1937.

Interview with Mr. William E. Anderson,  
Medford, Oklahoma (Grant Co.)

Born June 24, 1861, Lamont, Iowa,  
Jackson Co.

Parents Archie Anderson, father,  
Scotland.  
Ellen Heastey, mother,  
Iowa.

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William E. Anderson made the run in the opening of the Cherokee Strip, Sept. 16, 1893, from Caldwell, Kansas, on horseback, but was unsuccessful. He did not return to Kansas but kept on looking for a farm. He would go out of a morning and drive all day to see if he could buy somebody's right to a farm. Mrs. Anderson would accompany him on these trips, driving all day long over the prairies. On one of these trips, they encountered Mrs. Anderson's brother, Mr. Cummings, near the Kansas line. He learned from her that they had failed to find a place, so he had them come to his place until they could find one. He also tried to help them locate a place. During the month of December, 1893, Mr. Anderson learned

through a man passing by that he knew of a place belonging to a Mr. Boaugardis, Mr. Anderson could buy the rights; so he looked up Mr. Boaugardis and bought his rights. This farm was located four miles east of Medford, which is now designated as Highway No. 11. Mr. Cummings located one mile south of the Boaugardis farm.

They built a frame house 16 x 24, and a 12 foot "L", built later. The house still stands.

The rest of the winter was a hard one for them as they had brought no supplies, but in the spring, they borrowed a plow and a team of horses and broke some sod. In the summer, Mr. Anderson went back to Kansas and brought to Oklahoma, one cow, and fourteen spans of horses and mules; but the chickens, which they had left in Kansas, were all stolen.

Their first crop was kaffir corn which was pretty fair but it seemed as though the first two years were too dry to grow crops.

In February of 1894, the blizzard struck. Mr. Anderson said they had turned over their wagon box and propped it up and the snow drifted up against the wagon box, covering it.

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They were afraid the chickens would smother, so they went out and gathered them up and put them in the house, thus saving them. Mr. Anderson went out the next day to see if the hogs were all dead. He began to dig and before long discovered a wet place in the snow. Proceeding to dig there, he found the pigs all alive and warm.

The first three years of crops were very poor.

It was so dry and the rainfall was very scarce in Kansas, as well as here; feed was a scarcity and had to be hauled in from Kansas, a distance of some forty miles north of Medford. Returning from <sup>of those</sup> one / trips during the following

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winter of 1894, Mr. Anderson and one of the neighbor men ran into a blizzard. The wind was so strong that it almost turned the hay rack over more than once. They tried v ery hard to keep the horses on their feet so that no damage would be done. As they were nearing a farm house, they made straight for the barn, seeking shelter from to keep/blowing away what little hay they had left; but they had no sooner gotten the rack drawn up beside the barn than the owner came out and demanded that they leave at once. They were afraid to go on as the tongue of the

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hay rack was broken, barely being held together with a few slivers of wood. They asked the man if he could loan them a wagon in which to haul what hay they had left. Finally, he decided to grant their request. They unhitched the four horses, leaving one team there and hitching the other team to the wagon, transferred what hay they had left and continued on their journey toward home. By the time they reached home, they were almost frozen.

The third year, Mr. Anderson planted wheat. He obtained the seed wheat from Mr. McClain who owned a feed store and let Mr. Anderson have ~~forty~~ bushels of wheat on the condition that when it was harvested, he, McClain, was to get one-fourth of the crop. This wheat yielded thirty bushels to the acre. His first plow was a walking plow with a jabber planter attached to it.

As the Church was very much needed here, the first Christian Church was established in the Hay building, where the old Commercial Hotel is now. The Charter members attended here until the Christian Church was erected, at the place the Christian Church stands today. Mr. Anderson hauled the first rock from Kansas to build the foundation.