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INDEX CARDS

Negro Slave  
Opening-Old Oklahoma  
Langston  
Negroes in Guthrie  
Rock Island Railroad

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

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Field Worker's name Ruth E. MoonReport made on (date) October 12193 7Name Fanny Frances AllenPost Office Address Guthrie, OklahomaResidence address (or location) 1314 E. GrantDATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day X Year 1841Place of birth Sardis, MississippiName of Father Thomas Irby Place of birth VirginiaOther information about father SlaveName of Mother Carolina Place of birth VirginiaOther information about mother Slave

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and history 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 3

ALLEN, FANNY FRANCES.

INTERVIEW.

8900

Ruth E. Moon, Interviewer  
October 12, 1937

Interview with Fanny Frances Allen,  
1314 E. Grant, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Two of the daughters of Joe and Fanny Allen were married and they stayed in Mississippi; but Fanny and Joe and the seven younger children came on the train to Guthrie, three years after the "Run."

There was another "run" the very night that they arrived and if they had only understood about it, Joe could probably have gotten some lots free for their new home. It was this way. The new town of Langston had been promoted and hundreds of negroes from the south had been persuaded to come to the new town, which was to be the negroes' own city. Salesmen had gone through the South selling passage this far but when the emigrants reached Guthrie most of them were out of money and had no way to get their families or household goods the remaining distance to Langston, which was about thirteen miles. So they lived in empty box cars or in anything they could find along the tracks. There had been a contest on about a quarter section of bottom land just west of the Santa Fe tracks as to whether it was to be a homestead or a part of

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the town. This claim had been filed on by a man named Bockfinger. The very night that the Allens got off the train at Guthrie, the Supreme Court decision had been handed down that this quarter section was to be a part of the city.

The word spread like wild-fire among the stranded negroes and they set out at once to stake lots across the tracks.

By morning when the most of the white people who had been thinking of locating in the new addition heard of the decision, there was a negro on every lot. Thus the Elbow, so named from the shape of the Cottonwood River at that point, became over night the negro section of Guthrie.

But the Allens did not know what was going on. Fanny Allen kept seeing people hunting sticks and tearing red cloth into squares and running off; but she didn't understand what they were doing.

Joe Allen got work on the railroad helping to keep up the right-of-way and moved his family into an empty wheat house by the tracks. There was a big wheat

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house in which three other families who had arrived with them made their home, but the Allens preferred a smaller house to themselves. They lived there a year, then they bought some lots on East Grant Street and built a small house, where <sup>Fanny</sup> still lives.

Joe Allen helped to lay the steel when the Rock Island built through Guthrie.