

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

ALIGOOD, J. R.

INTERVIEW

10488

189

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

ALLGOOD, J. R. INTERVIEW.

10432

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford,

This report made on (date) April 11, 1938. 1938

1. Name J. R. Allgood,

2. Post Office Address Tipton, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May 5, Day _____ Year 1956

5. Place of birth North Carolina

6. Name of Father Thomas Allgood Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Mary Bowels Place of birth North Carolina

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 _____.

Investigator, Ida B. Lankford,
April 11, 1938.

Interview with J. R. Allgood,
Tipton, Oklahoma.

I came from North Carolina to Oklahoma, December 10, 1891. Three families of us chartered a car and came as far as Vernon, Texas, then we unloaded the car, hooked our teams to our wagons and came to the place we now have. There was no town of Tipton then. I bought a relinquishment and gave one thousand dollars for the claim.

August 6, 1909, Tipton was started and my farm is three miles north of Tipton. We were very glad we got a farm that close to town. Tipton is a town of about sixteen hundred inhabitants. We have fine churches; the Baptist Church in Tipton cost ninety-five hundred dollars. Tipton has a fine orphanage for the little orphan children. Our claim had a half dugout on it and we lived in it two years, then I hauled lumber from Vernon, Texas, and built a three-room house. I planted corn, millet, maize and some kaffir corn, and cotton. I hauled my cotton to Vernon, Texas, to get it ginned, then sold it for four

-2-

cents a pound. We lived just across the section line from a cow ranch, so we burned cow-chips. Fuel was so scarce we would have to rustle shinnery brush for kindling the fire.

We didn't have very many clothes. My wife made my suits of clothes with her fingers; also, my shirts, underclothes and her clothes, too. They were made of jeans cloth, outing and calico. We didn't have any sewing machine, we paid all we had for our land and home so it was a long time before we had very much household goods.

We didn't have any schools when we first came to this country. The first school our children attended in this country was held in a tent; then we men gathered and dug a dugout and sodded it up, then we had a very nice school building and we had church in the same place. Everybody was friendly and everyone would visit the other and take someone home with them every Sunday. We have had as many as twenty-five or thirty at our place for dinner and how we all enjoyed ourselves.

Oklahoma had awful storms in the early days. I well remember in 1905 the worst storm came and blew Snyder away;

-3-

one hundred and three people were killed and fifty of them were buried in one grave.

We surely had to work hard those days, I have worked many days from sunrise until sundown for fifty cents a day and lots of times I would have to take sorghum molasses for part pay though I had a wife and five children to support. We didn't have a government to help us, we had to dig it out. I am retired, can't work anymore. We have our home in Tipton and rent our farm; our farm has never been mortgaged.

I well remember the Civil War. There were big picnics held and the men would get up and call for volunteers. We lived on a public highway, the Yankees would come by our place and feed our corn to their horses, then order my mother to cook their supper or whatever meal they came by for. They would sometimes leave us without anything, then give Mother a cursing. My father was in the army and Mother made a crop like a man. We would parch rye for coffee and pile corn-cobs up and burn them into ashes to make our soda. We made hoppers and saved all the wood ashes through

-4-

the Winter, then poured water on top of that in the Spring;
that would make our lye. Then we would make barrels of
soap, enough to do us until the next Spring.