

JACOBS, HENRY. INTERVIEW 9781

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

JACOBS, HENRY.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Nora Lorrin.This report made on (date) January 21, 1938. 19381. Name Henry Jacobs.2. Post Office Address Okarche, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 14 Year 1862.5. Place of birth Germany.6. Name of Father Henry Jacobs, Sr. Place of birth Germany, 1828.Other information about father Died in 1883.7. Name of Mother Mrs. Henry Jacobs, Sr. Place of birth Germany.Other information about mother Died in Germany.

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 _____.

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Nora Lorrin,
Investigator,
Jan. 24, 1938.

An Interview With Henry Jacobs.
Okarche, Oklahoma.

I was born in Germany, June 14, 1862. My father, Henry Jacobs, Sr., was born in Germany in 1826 and died in 1883. I do not remember anything about my mother, except that she was born in Germany and died there, when I was four years of age. My father married again and I have two half-sisters.

I came to the United States from Germany when I was nineteen years old and arrived in New York harbor in 1881; it took us just eleven days to cross. I left the old country because I did not want to be a soldier. I came to America hoping to find a home where there was less certainty of being used as cannon fodder. I went from New York to Illinois, and found a job on a farm, near Nashville, Illinois, working for a man by the name of Olmeyer. My father and family came over a year and a half later, and they also settled in Illinois.

Later I went to Stanwood, Iowa, and worked on a farm near that place for about four years, then moved to the

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town of Bloomfield, Nebraska. I lived there for quite awhile and in the late '80's was married to Minnie Utter.

When we came to Oklahoma, we had five children, all girls. Our two boys were born to us after coming to Oklahoma. We made the trip on the train and came on account of my wife's health. She had had an operation and the doctor had advised a change of climate, and so we tried Oklahoma. Okarche was our destination, and we moved to a farm three miles southeast of that place. I bought the place out-right. There was a little shanty on it and a few acres broken out. I had been through this country one time before, this was when I was on a vacation into Texas. I had stopped at Okarche and looked the place over and liked it very much, so I knew what I was coming to. I built a frame house, 18 x 20 feet, later adding a kitchen and an upstairs. It is one of the best improved farms in the country now. I raised cattle, hogs, chickens, wheat, and corn and a good garden. I also planted a nice peach orchard. These trees later died out, but while they were bearing, I had so many peaches some years that I had to feed them to my hogs.

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There were lots of jack rabbits, quail and prairie dogs. I had a few prairie dogs on my place that moved in from a prairie dog town that was located on another fellow's claim. I soon got rid of them, however, and there are none around here at the present time.

I had no experiences with the Indians, other than to see them around the country. My children got their education by coming to the Lutheran school here in Okarche. They also attended church in Okarche. I owned a wagon and also a buggy, with which to drive the children to school and any place that they wanted to go.

We were pretty badly hailed out one year, but never suffered any cyclones. I obtained my supplies in Okarche, and used both wood and coal for fuel. As there was a creek on my claim with some wood along the banks, I did not have far to go for fuel. I dug a well right away and got good water. Our main foods were beans, bacon and potatoes, also milk, butter and eggs. We baked our own bread.

We had not been in Oklahoma many months, until there was an outbreak of the German measles and the whole neighbor-

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hood had them. I own two quarter sections of land now and my home in town. There are two pastures, one of twenty acres and one of sixty acres, the rest is broke out and in use as farm land.

I still have some tables, chairs, and dishes that I had when I came to Oklahoma. I have seven children, all are living. One daughter lives in Illinois, and one in Cherokee. The rest are living around Okarche. My wife is dead.