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ALEXANDER, ABE

INTERVIEW

#12397

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

12397

ALEXANDER, ABE . INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date) December 11, 1937.

1. Name Abe Alexander

2. Post Office Address Hominy, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) West Main Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1878

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father W. H. Alexander Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Served in Civil War.

7. Name of Mother Kissie Knowles Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother _____

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 6.

ALEXANDER, ABE

INTERVIEW.

12597

An Interview with Abe Alexander, Hominy, Oklahoma.
By - Charles H. Holt - Investigator.
December 11, 1937.

Abe Alexander was born in Springfield, Missouri. His parents moved to the Indian Territory in 1888, settling near Bluejacket. The trip was made in covered wagons, bringing with them only household goods and twenty head of cattle. It was slow journeying as the cattle were driven behind the wagons by the children.

They farmed at Bluejacket. The principal crops were flax and corn. The corn was fed to the stock and flax was their money crop. The highest price for flax was \$3.00 per bushel. The marketing point was Chetopa, Kansas.

There was no school nor church near enough to the farm for the children to attend.

Two Cherokee families were Chief Bushyheads and Bluejackets.

Four crops were raised at Bluejacket when the family moved in 1891 to six miles north of Chandler, in Lincoln County, on a farm which had very little if any land which

had been broke on it. The land was very difficult and slow work in breaking it with small plows and horse and mule teams. So they decided to get a large plow and use oxen to pull it. The oxen were located in the Kiamichi country and they traded horses and mules for seven yoke of oxen. Then next was the plow; so a twenty-four inch plow was secured which they hitched all of the seven yoke of oxen to. This proved successful and just the thing to get the ground thoroughly broken, as the large plow would turn small stumps and rocks over that the horse plows would have to go around. The plowing was so good with the oxen that the Alexanders broke land for the neighbors, which kept the oxen and the twenty-four inch plow going the year round. The crops were planted and cultivated with horses and small plows, such as double shovels, Georgia stock, but soon a tongueless cultivation was bought and cultivating the crops was much faster. Crops raised were Kaffir corn, cotton, and corn.

The farm house was a three roomed log house and about 1895 there was a bad cyclone which blew the house away. None of the family was hurt, but in the neighbor-

hood and at Chandler a number of people were killed by the cyclone. The court house at Chandler was blown down and most of the buildings in town were wrecked by the cyclone.

There was a log schoolhouse in the community which was used as a church also.

The Indians who were near in that part of the Territory were the Sac and Foxes and Iowas, and an annual occurrence was a dog feast. The Indians were all found to be friendly.

There was a stage line from Sapulpa to Chandler which operated for some time after the railroad was built.

John Emery was the first county attorney of Lincoln County.

Abe had grown almost to manhood by 1893. So he went to the 101 Ranch and got a job with the Miller brothers as cow puncher. There were many cattle on the large ranch and corn in great quantities was raised on Salt Fork Creek to be fed to the cattle in the winter. The cattle that died on the ranch ^{were} dragged away to some

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remote place by the cowboys and the Ponca Indians would come and get them for food.

Abe also rode the range lines for the "Bland Ranch" near Drumright in the Creek Country, and Bill Doolin, the outlaw, rode on the Bland Ranch with Abe. This was before he became so desperate. Doolin's first job of any importance was to rob a train at Sapulpa. He and his accomplices were bold and did not mind telling their friends of their deeds, Abe had bought a 45 Six-shooter that Doolin used in some of his robberies. Abe in going north to Southern Kansas for the harvest took the six-shooter along on his pack horse. One of his brothers was with him on the trip and they saw a herd of deer and Abe decided to try to kill one of the deer with the six-shooter. His brother told him it was useless to try, but Abe took a shot anyway, killing a nice fat deer. They skinned it and took it along with them.

Abe befriended Doolin at one time by letting him have a horse to ride. Doolin was sick, and wanted to go

to his home. The horse was sent back, but Doolin never got well and died at his home. It was generally believed that Doolin was killed by officers, but it is said that the officers got his body after he had died and shot it and took it in and said they killed him. This was done by the officers to try to collect the reward, but the reward was not collected.

When the Run was made the father made it, but did not find a suitable piece of land to stake, so he bought a claim six miles southwest of Cleveland which had no broken ground on it. Then the family moved from Chandler to the place near Cleveland, bringing the seven yoke of oxen and the big plow and using it in Pawnee County to break land for himself and neighbors as he had when living at Chandler.

There was no school in this new community, but one was built the first year, of log construction; the seats were made of large boards.

The dwelling was also built of logs and the

same year a storm blew it away, but none of the family was badly hurt. There were six boys in the family, and several of them were large enough to do a man's work, so the house was soon built back.

The family continued for a number of years farming southwest of Cleveland on the same farm until the mother died, then the farm was given up.

The father served the last two years of the Civil War and was in Prices Raid and the Battle of Springfield. His first Civil War pension was \$6.00 per month, and it was while Grover Cleveland was President.

The father died only a few years ago at the age of 91 years.

Abe has quit farming and working in the oil fields out of Hominy.