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BAKER, LOUIS N.

INTERVIEW

10323

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

BAKER, LOUIS N.

INTERVIEW.

10323.

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland.

This report made on (date) March 21, 1938. 1938

1. Name Louis N. Baker.

2. Post Office Address Guthrie, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 2015 W. Warner Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 16 Year 1845.

5. Place of birth Tole, France.

6. Name of Father Louis Baker, Sr. Place of birth Tole, France.

7. Name of Mother Clemmie Baker. Place of birth Tole, France.

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 _____.

BAKER, LOUIS N.

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Mildred McFarland,
Investigator,
March 21, 1938.

Interview With Louis N. Baker,
2015 West Warner Street,
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

I came to the United States with my parents when just a small child and we moved to a farm in Kansas, where we lived until I was a young man.

I filed on a claim in Kansas but did not keep it.

I came to the Indian country in 1889, driving a covered wagon through. After I had looked around and located a place, I sent for the girl I was going to marry, who lived in Kansas. When she arrived we were married, being the first couple to obtain a marriage license in Guthrie after the opening.

Immediately after we were married, my wife filed on a claim on Cowboy Flats, thirteen miles northeast of Guthrie, and we camped near the river in a tent until we could build a house. We slept in the wagon.

I built a board shack 12 x 16 feet. Our bed was made from posts and rope and we cooked out-of-doors on

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an open fire, using a Dutch oven which we still have on the farm. This oven has been in our family for seventy-five years. Our dishes were made of tin and gourds.

We used creek water until we could dig a well and had to haul fire wood a distance of four miles.

I used the axe to chop holes in the sod to plant the first corn crop; I put in eight acres the first year. I had enough money to see me through for food the first winter and there was plenty of wild game.

One day, two men and I went deer hunting; we had three wagon loads of deer when night came and we made camp.

A band of Cheyenne Indians came along and ordered us to leave but we saw no reason why we should, so we refused. The Indians then set fire to the grass around our camp and we were forced to leave.

Harry Painter was made the first sheriff of Logan County and I was his deputy. I held that office for six years. We had quite a lot of trouble with the horse thieves and bandits. There ^{were} a lot of cowboys around here

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whom I would gather together to help me round up the thieves and we would bring them to Guthrie for trial.

My father was a Union Soldier in the Civil War for three years and three months, having volunteered in 1861.

I hunted buffalo on the old Chisholm Trail from Kansas through Oklahoma to Texas. I helped to build the first school house in our community, which was called Victory School. It was built of split logs, standing upright.

There were very few farms around that did not have a few graves within for there were no cemeteries then.

I am ninety-three years old and have endured plenty of hardships and privations, but feel my life has been well spent.