

### **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Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.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For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.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.

BAILEY, SAM

INTERVIEW

#12513

93

W. T. Holland,  
Investigator  
December 27, 1937.

Interview with Sam Bailey  
27 East 12th Street,  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

My father, Earl D. Bailey, was born near Coldwater, Michigan, April 4, 1860. In the Fall of 1875 he moved with his parents to Iowa and it was here he grew up and met and wed Katie A. Harris, on January 10, 1880. It so happened that he and mother were the first couple to marry in Lanoni, a new town, and the minister, Asa Cochran, was new, too, this being the first ceremony he performed.

Father went to school at Coldwater and when about grown took an examination for a teacher's certificate and received a first class certificate, entitling him to teach in the public schools of the state of Iowa. He, like a lot of others, decided to move to the southwest, so in 1886 Father and Mother moved to western Texas. Here, among other occupations, he taught school. My grandfather was a lumber man who had owned and operated a sawmill in Iowa. John Short, a lumber man, married one of Father's sisters and lived in Indian Territory. This was one reason Father decided to come to the Indian Territory.

BAILEY, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

12513.

-2-

Father and Mother came to Indian Territory in 1895 and settled at Stanley, in the Choctaw country in what is now Pushmataha County. His brother-in-law, Mr. Short was in the lumber and sawmill business here with the firm of Pickering and Short. They owned and operated sawmills and had a planing mill at Stanley. There was lots of timber in that section then; Pickering and Short also were engaged in the cattle business, running range cattle. The range wasn't so good there, so they later brought in cattle from Texas and leased range in the Osage country and ran cattle there in 1899. They grazed from one to two thousand head of cattle. The first Texas cattle they brought in didn't know how to eat dry feed so they had to break them in on that.

Father worked with the firm as bookkeeper.

Short later bought Pickering's interest and he continued with Short until 1901 when he moved to Tulsa. During his stay at Stanley, they bought cattle from the Choctaw Indians. The Choctaws would come to Stanley and describe the cattle; cow, heifer or what it might be, and Bailey and Short would pay them for the cattle. The Indians would keep the cattle

BAILEY, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

12513.

-3-

until called for and then upon a day set, would deliver them to John's Valley. The Johns were prominent Choctaw in law Indians and lived the John's Valley section. The Bailey men used to go to John's Valley to receive the cattle. They would spend a day or two rounding up and branding the cattle they had bought. They stayed with the Johns who lived well, had good houses and were good traders and business men.

Steve Bostile, an educated Choctaw, would act as interpreter, as the older Indians were unable to speak English although their children could speak English, as they were taught that in their schools.

Short and my father owned the original townsite of Sperry and the National Realty Company in which my father was interested owned all the townsites from Muskogee to Tulsa. W. N. Robinson also was connected with this firm which was a Kansas City firm; <sup>he</sup> was a builder in Tulsa. He built and operated the Alcorn Hotel, at First and Boston Streets. In its day it was the main hotel in Tulsa.

Later on, he built the Robinson Hotel at Third and Main Streets, Tulsa, which in its day was considered the finest hotel in the southwest and is now used as a business and office building. During this time, on and after 1901, Short and Father leased several thousand acres in the Osage country for grazing purposes and one year shipped out a whole train load of cattle over the Midland Valley Railroad. Later on, after the allotments were made, they would lease and improve tracts of land up there. They would build four wire fences, build houses and plow up the land. These leases ran for five years.

Green Yeargin was the largest operator up there before this. His is still living up near Skiatook.

At the time of my father's death, he had been a member of the Latter Day Saints church for over sixty-four years, having been baptized on June 1, 1873. He was called and served at various times in three offices of the priesthood. He was ordained when young to the priesthood, then on May 17, 1896, he was ordained an elder, and finally, in 1823, he was set apart to the office of

BAILEY, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

12513.

-5-

high priest. His faith was so great, he was never so busy with business as to neglect his church work. Since 1901 he always had Tulsa as his church and voting home. In 1902 he started a Sunday School at Sperry. Later, a church was built of native lumber, donated by W. A. Springer. This building was later replaced by the present brick building. In 1910, in conjunction with W.N. Robinson, Peter Adamson and Orval James he organized a Sunday School in the Robinson building in Tulsa, at 3rd and Main Streets. For several years he served as bishop's agent and counselor to Bishop Ellis Short. He brought encouragement and good cheer to the Saints through his ministry, attitude and faith in God and his work for the church. He later turned his interest to coal mining, and with Peter Adamson, Jr. opened up the Hickory Coal Mines, east of Tulsa. He traveled thru Oklahoma and Kansas selling coal, and preaching when the opportunity was presented.

My father was a life member of the Masonic Lodge #71 of Tulsa.