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INDEX CARDS

Cattle Trails
Oklahoma City
Opening-Cherokee Outlet
Saloon Keeper

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

Field Worker's name John C. Kerr

This report made on (date) June 12, 1937

1. Name Mr. Bush H. Bowman

2. Post Office Address _____

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1866

5. Place of birth Lexington, Kentucky, Fayette County

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____.

John C. Kerr,
Research Field Worker,
June 12, 1937.

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Biography and Historical Narrative
From
A Personal Interview
With
Bush H. Bowman

Mr. Bowman was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1866, and is now seventy-one years old. He lived in Kentucky until 1880. When having a brother in San Antonio, Texas, he went there, making the trip by himself, which was quite a feat in those days for a boy of his age. He states he was asked many a question, but arrived all right. In San Antonio he worked in a grocery store, as did his brother. Later, the brother started a store of his own on the border of Texas and Old Mexico, and Bush worked for him until they put in another store across the river and he took charge of it.

While there, Small Pox broke out and he was quarantined in Old Mexico for eleven months. This disease was very bad and hundreds of people died. But he didn't take it although working through it all and people about town dying all the time. He states the quarantine was very very strict. Nobody went or came and it has left some bad memories.

He continued to run this store until the big drouth came. He doesn't remember the year, but his brother lost

his stores and Bush went to San Antonio and worked in a store and tended bar in a saloon awhile. It was during this time that a cattleman, Mr. Blocker, hired him to bring cattle up in what was then the Cherokee Strip. This was before the opening and grass was fine. The cattle were shipped to Bliss, which is now Marland, Oklahoma. Some went east and some west to pasture. He says they were so poor when they came up that they were just hides, bones and horns. But the grass was stirrup high and fine for them. After bringing up three train loads, he decided to stay in Oklahoma and stopped in Oklahoma City, where he worked for a Mr. Pile, a grocerman.

He remained in Oklahoma City until the strip opened. Mr. Pile loaned him a horse to make the race on and starting at Orlando, Oklahoma, he located a lot in Perry, Oklahoma.

At Perry he went to tending bar and worked for about two years, saving his money. Also he sold his lot for \$300 and with his savings and the sale money, he put in a saloon of his own.

Times were both good and bad and he needed help, so took in a partner. They soon bought another saloon here in Perry and built to this nucleus until they had two in Guthrie and one in Blackwell, Oklahoma, in addition

to the first two.

In those days, there were a good many fights, but not too bad. When saloons went out with Statehood in 1907, he and his partner started a cigar and Billiard Parlor, in a nice large brick building which they had built, and it is still in operation.

Mr. Bowman accumulated quite a nice sum of money and lost \$30,000.00 in a bank failure here in Perry. He has retired from business but visits around town and is quite an entertainer. Being from Kentucky and Texas, he talks with a soft southern drawl. Has good health and motors south or east every summer and says he is going to spend this summer up in Canada, fishing.