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BRENCE, A. L.

INTERVIEW

#10475.

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

BRENCE, A. L.

INTERVIEW

10475

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) April 20, 1938

1. Name A. L. Brence

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) South part of town

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 28 Year 1895

5. Place of birth Emhouse, Texas

6. Name of Father William P. Brence Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Mary Treadaway Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother Housewife

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 5.

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INTERVIEW

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Ida B. Lankford,  
Investigator,  
April 30, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. A.L. Brance,  
Cordell, Oklahoma.

I was born May 23, 1893, in Texas and lived there until I was about five years old, when we left there for Washita County, arriving here about October 1, 1897. About all that I can remember was when we were loading the wagon to start when all the household goods, my father and mother and all four of us children started in one wagon, pulled by one team of mules. One night we camped in Dallas, Texas, and there I saw my first street car. I can't remember anything else about the trip until we arrived at Red River where we crossed on the first ferry that I had ever seen. I can remember how scared I was. I surely thought the wagon was going to fall into the water and when we got to the bank on this side the team could not pull the wagon load up the bank, so we had to unload nearly everything and pull the empty wagon over carrying the load up the bank by hand.

The next thing that I can remember was when we arrived

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at the store run by a man named Durkson, two miles north and one mile east of the place where old Mountain View was later built, and as we were coming to H. C. Treadaway's home who is my grandfather, this man at the store said he knew my grandfather and that he lived at Cloud Chief and that we would have <sup>to</sup> turn back west and cross the river again. We took him at his word and turned west, but when we came to the river it was almost night and there being no bridge we had to ford it. The bank was so steep and slick and the team was tired out, so we had to unload most of our stuff and camp. I will always remember that night and that camp for we were in the worst sandburr patch I have ever seen, before or since. The next morning was Sunday and we did not have anything for breakfast. We left this camp for Cloud Chief, arrived there about ten o'clock that morning and saw a Mr. Cloud who ran a hotel. My father had known him for a long time. He told us that we had come the wrong way that after leaving the store the day before, we should have gone north instead of west. We had to turn back

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and travel east back across the river, arriving at Grandfather's house about noon. Soon after arriving at Grandfather's house, my father dug a dugout on our claim and we moved in and stayed there. We would farm some, and Father would freight from El Reno to Cloud Chief taking groceries and dry goods for pay. I grew to manhood on this farm and we still own it.

At the age of twenty-four I enlisted in the army and was stationed at San Antonio, Texas, for about a year when we left for France, and the Front June 10, 1918, arrived in France July 5, 1918 and for thirty days did some of the hardest training that I ever had to do. We arrived at the front August 10th, and I was never out of shell fire until I was sent to the hospital, November 1st. I stayed in the hospital until December 20 when I was sent to Germany, arriving January 1, 1919. I remained there until May 10, when the division started home via box car route, I arrived home June 10th., at Newport, and left Newport June 15, 1919. I came home June 22, 1919. I have made Washita County my home since that time.