

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Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.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For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.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

BROWN, MATH . INTERVIEW

4136

133

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

Field Worker's name Glen F. Curd  
This report made on (date) May 24, 1937

1. Name Math Brown  
2. Post Office Address Hobart, Oklahoma.  
3. Residence address (or location) 626 South Monroe Street.  
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 14 Year 1863  
5. Place of birth Germany - Bufferian Village

6. Name of Father Jacob Brown Place of birth Germany  
Other information about father Blacksmith  
7. Name of Mother Anna Brown Place of birth Germany  
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 suggestions on subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4

An Interview with Math Brown, Hobart, Oklahoma.  
By - Glen F. Curd, Field Worker.  
May 24, 1937.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was born September 14, 1863, in Germany. Father died when I was ten years of age. I began to study United States History and wanted to come over and get a free home.

At the age of twenty-four I came to the States and settled in Illinois temporarily.

Hearing of the opening of Oklahoma which was to be in eighty nine, I came through on horseback and looked the country over, made the Run in eighty nine, staked a claim five miles east, one mile south of Mulhall (Alfred then). I built an adobe house and tried to farm. The sod was so hard to plow we took a hatchet and dug down and planted potatoes just for the family use, and made some potatoes. Now we didn't break sod out this time, just put potatoes underneath the sod.

While there I was about two and five-tenths miles from the line of the Cherokee Strip. I became acquainted with a fellow from Illinois named Aigner. He wanted a place badly and wanted me to get it for him, which I promised to do. But nearer the time for the Opening of the Cherokee Strip in ninety-three, the government issued orders through

the papers that anyone already owning a homestead, could not get another without being subject to fine and imprisonment. Well, I was afraid to go on through with it, but I did get the man a horse and every day would make him ride until he learned how to get along on one. We had already looked the place over that he wanted. It was down on the river about eight miles from the line. We took our stand close to be in line for the place as we already knew where we were going when the time came.

For three days before the opening I, (Math Brown), hauled water on a wagon to the people as all the creeks and most of the springs were dry. I got a nickel a glass for water and twenty-five cents a gallon. I had several springs on my place but all were dry but one and I was doing my best to supply the demand.

On the 16th of September at 12:00 o'clock noon the Run started. Everything was in readiness on the line. Those on horseback were in front, carts and buggies next, and wagons behind. One fellow in particular caught my eye. He had a racing cart and a very fine horse of racing stock. The horse was hard to hold but finally the

signal was sounded and everybody was off. I told my friend Aigner for us to stay together. I had a gallon jug strapped to my left arm. I was riding <sup>at a</sup> pretty good gait and that jug was beating my ribs something awful. About that time this man with the racing cart passed me. I looked around for my buddy and didn't see him anywhere. Well, I kept going and all the time was trying to get loose from this jug of water. I was holding my horse back so that his head was nearly butting my nose. A little farther on I passed the man in the cart with one wheel off and looked around and here came Aigner. He said: "My horse is done for, he won't go". I told him he could get plenty more horses but these places would not be easy to <sup>to</sup> get, to "put the spurs to him and let's go". We did, and as we got nearer our location here came the man with the remains ~~of~~ his cart, no wheels at all, just axle and seat, but he was still hanging on. We got to the location but part of what Aigner wanted had already been taken, but he got there in time to get part of it anyway. I ~~left~~ left him there and rode back to Perry. A saloon was already in operation and I bought a bottle of beer. First I decided I would ~~get~~ get a town lot and did. I wanted a corner lot, but a soldier was on it, so I got

4

the next one to it. A fellow came up the alley and tried to run me off but the soldier said: "Leave my buddy alone". Then I told the man I would sell it to him for \$100.00 but he offered me \$65.00 and I sold out. Just there about ten minutes - went on to the saloon and got a bottle of beer which cost \$1.00 per bottle.

As a boy I had always wanted a level place to farm, so after the Kiowa Country opened I succeeded in buying a place of my childhood desire. I was raised in the Alps or the edge of them, which was a very rough country and I preferred this to the rest. I looked over Arizona and back east but just had to get to this country to live in.

\*\*\*\*\*