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INDEX CARDS

Greer County
Journey to Oklahoma
Pioneer life--Greer County
Weather
Food--pioneer
Schools--Greer County
Railroads--Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific
Games--Greer County
Collections

1368

Field Worker: Ruth Kerbo
 April 9, 1937

Interview with R. Beaumont
 319 North Louisiana Ave.
 Mangum, Oklahoma

Born December 29, 1882
 Chanute, Kansas

Parents Father, John Beaumont
 England-Immigrated from
 England in 1862
 Mother, Caroline Jones
 Vermont.

AN INTERVIEW.

One of the prized possessions of Richard Beaumont is a Springfield rifle, which his father, John Beaumont, bought at a little store near the Navaho Mountains, during the Indian scare in 1890.

Following the fatal shooting of Poaline, Kiowa Sub-Chief, at Byrd Mountain, the settlers held weekly drills at Mangum as a precaution against attack. The Kiowas were said to have been on the warpath, and rifles secured from the Federal government were issued to county citizens, although the attack never materialized.

-2-

1368

John Beaumont, Richard's father, received news of the firing on Fort Sumter, the first battle of the Civil War, as he embarked on the boat at Liverpool, England, in 1862.

Mr. Beaumont recalls that his father served with the 14th Vermont Volunteers, and was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg. John Beaumont remained slightly crippled throughout his life as a result of the wound.

In 1868, following the close of the Civil War, the Beaumont family began a trek to the west, which carried them through Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, and to Greer County, Texas.

The trip from Minnesota to Kansas was made in a covered wagon, drawn by an ox team.

It was the first of February, 1868, when the Beaumont family left Wilson County, Kansas, enroute to Greer County, where they had heard was cheap land and free range for cattle. They came with a caravan of five wagons loaded with necessary supplies, a spring bed, cook stove, and a few chairs.

-3-

1368

Arriving in the county, the family settled on a section of land on the Elm River, eight miles northeast of Mangum, or three and one half miles southeast of where the Rock Island railroad bridge now crosses Elm River, and remained until 1919.

Dugouts were favored abodes of pioneers at that time, since the vicinity was notoriously subject to cyclones and high winds. But as there were no improvements on the land the family lived in tents until their dugout home was completed. It was a frame structure on the inside, extending a few feet above the ground, with only one door and it stood upright. Eventually the family traded an ox team to Daddy Hays, a neighbor, for a two-room house, which was moved to their place, and later more rooms were added to the house.

Food in those days was hard to get and often times the supply would almost be exhausted before the wagons could return from Vernon or Quanah.

Mr. Beaumont owned a grist mill, which was run by hand and was fastened to their dugout door on the right side as you go down. He recalls that often their neighbors would come to grind corn or wheat enough to last

until their supplies would come, as traveling was a problem in the early days as there were no bridges and the rivers were at the flood stage in rainy weather.

One particular time Mr. Beaumont had gone to Quanah for supplies, and a heavy rain delayed his return. The family had a half sack of flour, which they made last two weeks by eating a lot of pumpkins.

Mrs. Beaumont gave the stage man 25¢ for which to purchase a spool of linen thread at Quanah. Things of that kind could not be found in Mangum.

The Howder school building was erected in 1889, a half mile from the Beaumont home. This afforded three months free school and if a child went longer it cost one dollar. The building consisted of one room, was unceiled and very poorly constructed. Cracks in the walls made it very uncomfortable in cold weather.

John Beaumont was the first settler in the country to fence his land, it is believed. Mr. Beaumont recalls driving to Vernon, Texas, for the 4,000 pounds of of barbed wire to enclose the range. His father also purchased the first self-binder for wheat in this region.

-5-

1388

Wheat was the first principal crop, although cotton was grown generally in 1900. Mr. Beaumont recalls having his first bale ginned at the Lee Heally gin in Mangum.

Opening of the Rock Island line in this section, in 1900, was an important event in the history of the country. At first the train stopped at Granite, but later the line was extended to Mangum when the county residents agreed to furnish the right-of-way. Mr. I. J. Rude was instrumental in getting the road extended to Mangum.

Until the Rock Island was established in the country, trading was at Quahah and Vernon, Texas. Following the wheat harvest, Mr. Beaumont would require most of the winter to haul his wheat to Quahah. He usually made 4,000 bushel of wheat from a 200 acre tract.

In the early day wheat was worth 25¢ to 50¢ a bushel, cotton at 4 ¢ a pound, and cows from \$3.00 to \$5.00 each. Mr. Beaumont traded some cattle for farming tools.

J
For amusement the young people went to "Ice Cream Socials" and the boys rode bronchos and steers during holidays.

There were two kinds of quail, the Bob White and the Blue quail, some deer, antelope and a few black bears. Wild turkeys were so numerous they would go in droves.

Mr. Beaumont recalls that Mr. George Moore was the first man to own and operate a cotton gin in Mangum and it was fed by hand.

With his brother, Bill, Mr. Beaumont has been active as a carpenter here since 1919. His brother has recently acquired typewriting as a hobby despite his 60 odd years. Richard Beaumont, however, has chosen horticulture as a hobby. His lawn is filled with fine shrub and trees and a colorful lily pond.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

257
 1367

Field worker's name Ruth Kerbo

This report made on (date) April 9th 1937.

1. Name of person owning collection Mr R. Beaumont
 Address 319 N Louisiana Ave. Mangum, Oklahoma
2. Name (if any) of collection Weapons, clothing, documents.
3. This collection contains the following types of material Weapons:-
.45 caliber pistol, Springfield rifle, hunting knife, spear. Clothing:-
jacket made of skin of mountain lion, leather belt, buckskin belt
4. Amount of material one each
5. Material deals with R. Beaumont and John Beaumont's
(father) early day experiences.
6. Approximate period (dates) material is for 1885-1890
7. Locations of the collection (where it is kept) At R. Beaumont's
home.
8. Condition of storage place Excellent.
9. Condition of collection Good.
9. What does the owner intend to do with this collection To be
kept in family as relics of pioneer history.
 Would he be willing to part with it? no.
10. Any other information about the collection, including its history _____
11. Does this owner know other people who have or might have collections.
 Give names & addresses _____

NOTE: In the event that any of the above questions cannot be answered fully in the space allowed, attach blank sheets firmly, and give all available information. Referring to question by number.

Number of sheets attached 1

No. 3- Documents: A certificate of membership in the Payne's Colony, belonging to R. Beaumont's father, 1885. A Bill of Sale for some cattle written by W. L. Perkins for \$400.00 for 99 head of cattle. They also have pictures of their dugout home, a beaded bag Mrs. Beaumont got from the Indians.

Mr. Beaumont has some arrow heads and bones he has collected and has put on display at the Mangum Star printing office in Mangum.
