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BEHAMER, J. S.

INTERVIEW

#4385

439

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

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) June 11, 1937

1. Name J. S. Behamer
2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) North Church Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 26 Year 1860
5. Place of birth Fort Smith, Arkansas

6. Name of Father Soloman Behamer Place of birth Ohio
Other information about father Blacksmith and farmer
7. Name of Mother Eliza Wagner Place of birth Ohio
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 _____.

Interview with J. S. Behamer
Cordell, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Ida B. Lankford
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
June 11, 1937

We came to Washita County, February 23, 1901, from Garfield County. We came in covered wagons and lived in a little box-house of one room without windows or a floor.

We freighted from Weatherford. The white men would steal wood from the Indians.

I remember a good preacher who would send his boy to steal wood (as it would never do for the preacher himself to go) and he would say, "Now son, don't get caught." Later on, the boy began stealing other things and the officer got him and they asked him why he would steal when his father was a good preacher; so he told them that his father taught him to steal from the Indians.

I had all the harness stolen from me the first year I was here. It was the cattle men who got my harness. I had to buy more and never got anything

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out of the men who took my first harness.

There were no railroads in Oklahoma then.

We had church in a dugout and that Christmas the neighbors wanted to have a Christmas tree, so we all gathered and built a brush arbor and put up lanterns to give us light. Thus we had the Christmas tree and had a good time.

We had no roads. We just traveled across the prairie. I got my land broken out and later I set out one thousand apple trees.