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

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) December 31 1937

1. Name John W. Beard

2. Post Office Address Ada

3. Residence address (or location) _____

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

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

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 2.

BEARD, JOHN W.

INTERVIEW.

9588.

Maurice R. Anderson,
Interviewer.
December 31, 1937.

Interview with John W. Beard.
Ada, Oklahoma.

John W. Beard, pioneer, Ada citizen and '99er, was born in Sweet Springs, Missouri, May 1, 1868. He moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Beard, and family in 1869 to Fredonia, Wilson County, Kansas, where he resided, attending public schools in that county until 1889, when upon the opening of Oklahoma Territory to settlement, he made the race into the town of Guthrie on April 22. Three or four days later, he moved to Oklahoma City, where he later engaged in various public enterprises with his brother, H. G. Beard.

On September 22, 1891, he took a claim upon the present town site of Shawnee, where he resided until April, 1900, at which time he moved to the site of the present town of Ada, where he engaged in the real estate business for a number of years. On October 21, 1930, he was united in marriage to Miss Leone Bailey of Shawnee, and immediately moved to Ada where they have maintained their residence ever since.

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Mr. Beard has been closely identified with the progress of Ada during the past thirty-seven years. In 1893, he volunteered as a soldier in the Spanish-American war and was honorably discharged from the service. He was the first Noble Grand of the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Ada, elected on November 31, 1901. He is a member of the First Methodist Church in Ada and has affiliated throughout his life with the Republican party, having been a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in June, 1932. In time he was a member of the County Election Board of Pontotoc County and at the present time, is engaged in the Real Estate business in Ada, and predicts a rosy future for this city as has been his practice and belief for the past thirty-seven years. He lived for thirty-one years on the site now occupied by the Post Office and Federal Building in Ada. He sold the land where the Federal Building now stands to the United States in 1931.

Mr. Beard has served his city faithfully upon many occasions as delegate or representative in matters that had to do with acquiring industries and institutions for this city.

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The most important service he rendered in his estimation, is the seventeen weeks that he devoted to lobbying for the present State Teachers' College in Ada. The service includes lobbying at first and second sessions of the Legislature and also at the first special session of the State Legislature.

Personal References for John W. Beard.

Introductory page of History of Pontotoc County, Oklahoma also pages 64, 67, 65, 69, 70, 71, 72, 77, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, and 151.