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BEACH, GLEN.

INTERVIEW

9753

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

Field Worker's name Augusta H. Custer

This report made on (date) January 22 1938

1. Name Glen Beach
2. Post Office Address Watonga, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 810 Prouty Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 1 Year 1889
5. Place of birth Erath County, Texas
6. Name of Father McCager (Cage) Beach Place of birth Texas
7. Name of Mother Etta Crockett Beach Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother Pioneer woman

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 4.

BEACH, GLEN

INTERVIEW

#9753

Augusta H. Custer  
Investigator  
January 22, 1938.

Interview with Glen Beach,  
Watonga, Oklahoma.

I was only two years of age when my parents came to Greer County. I lived in two states with out ever moving. It was known as Texas until a Government survey and then that part of the country was found to be located over the line in Oklahoma, that is one way to move from one state to another.

I remember an awful flood, and remember the folks telling that it happened on the first day of June, 1891. I remember distinctly how I was carried out of the flood that came into the house of my grandfather when Grosbeck Creek overflowed. There were many head of livestock lost in that flood. This creek emptied into the Red River.

My paternal grandfather went to Texas in 1859, and lived in the same place all those years. He died in 1927 at the age of ninety-three years. My mother's father was John L. Crockett and he moved to Texas in 1841. Many of my great uncles were killed in Indian fights. My father's brothers were all killed except one named Terry. They were fighting with the Indians over some horses and if Terry had not run away he would have been killed. This happened south of Stenens Creek, Texas.

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My father built a half dugout on his claim in Greer County. He used bridge timbers that were left there when a flood had washed away the bridge. These timbers were strong and timber was not easy to get in that section of the state. This house had a dirt floor, a shingle roof and two windows.

I remember when I was a very small boy I liked to go with my father to the field when he was plowing. He would cross the river and plow with a heavy beam Cassidy gang plow with two yoke of oxen hitched to the plow. I liked to get up close to the plow and watch the sod turn over. Sometimes as the oxen moved so slowly I would try to circle the outfit. I was trying this stunt one time and fell down in front of the four oxen. That looked to me like a whole herd of stampeding cattle, but these animals stopped and did not walk on me.

The surveying crew that was sent to survey the land where my father took his claim were all killed by the Indians. They were buried there on the place and their graves are marked with limestone rocks. Some one chiseled their names on the soft stone and I can remember some of the names. These workmen were camped, and one of the surveyors went down to the spring to get some water to get breakfast, when he was shot by an Indian. The others were shot

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by these Comanche Indians as soon as they came out of their tents.

My father made a living the first four or five years he was on the claim by killing ducks and quail for the market. Living, as he did, near the river the ducks would come over and darken the sky like a cloud. The quail were numerous and he got \$3.00 per dozen for those. I do not know what he received for ducks. I have seen as many as nine coyotes in a pack. Most of the time coyotes go around by themselves or in pairs but in that part of the country they killed calves and would attack cows if they were poor and weak. There was plenty of wild plums and grapes were abundant along the river and its tributaries.

My father played the fiddle and often played for dances. In this way he picked up a few dollars. There were not nearly enough girls to go around and men paid twenty-five cents for a number, and when a square dance would be called if they were running two sets the floor manager would say "Numbers from one to eight, get your partners for a dance". Then the next square dance it would be "Numbers from nine to sixteen, get your partners for a dance". Most round dances anyone could dance that

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could get a girl, but sometimes it would be necessary to call numbers for that also.

I had two sisters and three brothers. We had a good time on my father's ranch. He had thirteen quarters of land and many cattle. I do not know when I learned to ride, I was just too young to remember. I know the first job I had was to herd cattle for fifty cents a day, and I rode an old white mule.

A meteor fell north of Quanah; that was about ten years ago. It roared and the earth shook like an earthquake, the jar made the dishes rattle and there was a sound much like thunder. I went over in that direction some time afterward but I never was able to locate where it fell.