

ENDICOTT, G. P.

INTERVIEW

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

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ENDICOTT, G. P. - INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Robert W. SmallThis report made on (date) March 14, 19381. Name G. P. Endicott2. Post Office Address Newkirk, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Same4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 9 Year 18625. Place of birth Illinois6. Name of Father P. F. Endicott Place of birth Illinois7. Name of Mother Susie Herman Endicott place of birth Illinois.

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 _____

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Small, Robert W.- Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149
March 14, 1938.

Interview with G. P. Endicott
Newkirk, Oklahoma

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I was born on June 9th, 1862, in Illinois, and was seven years of age when my father moved to Kansas, settling near the present site of Arkansas City, in 1869.

When my father settled on Walnut River about four miles from the Indian Territory line in 1869, there were but few settlers in the country. The Osage Indians had been located temporarily on a six mile strip of land along the south line of Kansas. They occupied but a small domain on this strip of land and were waiting for the Government to locate them permanently on some reservation in the Indian Territory or give them a permanent location on this six mile strip.

My father and a few others of the early settlers cut logs and built houses on their lands which was also included in this six mile strip of land and near the colony of Osages who at that time were living on the site now occupied by Arkansas City.

In the early part of ^{the} Winter of 1869 my father and

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three other men set out in a wagon to go on a buffalo hunt about 60 miles southwest. They traveled until they reached the buffalo country, when they suddenly discovered a herd in the distance and all were lying down. The men stopped their team and discussed the matter of waiting till next morning to attempt their kill, or to go that evening. They decided to kill what they could that evening and the result was three buffalo which they dressed and put away in the wagon. In a day or two after their hunt, they started back home, at which time it was turning very cold and they faced the cold wind and snow all that day. During the night it snowed about eight inches and the temperature was around zero. They stopped their wagon at the head of a canyon where they cut a small dead tree and took part of the side boards to the wagon to make a fire, and they got through the night with much cold and discomfort. Next morning they set out again with the cold increasing and they reached home about ten o'clock at night, stopping at our house where my mother prepared their suppers from buffalo meat. The men discovered that some of them had frozen limbs, hands and ears. Mr. Jim Huey, who later became a banker at Arkansas City,

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had both feet frozen which had to be taken off. Some of the others lost a hand or a foot.

About this time the Osage Indians became very hostile toward the white settlers, claiming that the settlers were using timber and killing off game that they had no right to do. A Captain Norton and his brother, known as Professor N Norton, were well acquainted with the Osages and could speak their language some, and they prevailed upon the Osages to remain quiet until Spring, and the Government would pay them for their land they had left or make some satisfactory settlement with them. This satisfied them for a while.

One day the Nortons left that part and none knew where they had gone, and for some reason the Indians became hostile again and told the white settlers they had better all leave immediately. The settlers became alarmed at this sudden outburst of the Osages and since the Nortons were gone my father was chosen as spokesman to offer something that would pacify the Indians. The Indians wanted to know where the Nortons had gone. My father did not know but in order to avoid a threatened massacre of the whites he told the interpreter for the Indians that the Nortons had gone to Washington to get some money for them. This quieted them for a few days.

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Then the Nortons returned with a load of merchandise from Emporia where they had been gone for several days, and they unloaded their goods in a log house and set up a store in the community. The Osage Chief got very angry because matters had been misrepresented to him and he and several of his warriors came down upon my father and some others to slaughter them. Father pled with the Chief to go with him to see the Nortons and the Chief finally agreed to go; Father told the Nortons what he had told the Chief during their absence to Emporia. They all gathered in a big tent belonging to the Chief and held a consultation. The Indians told the whites that they had been lied to and mistreated in various ways, deprived of their hunting grounds and were not being given a reservation or paid money that was due them. The Nortons then told the Indians that the Government had a reservation for them in the Indian Territory, and that they had not been mistreated and if they would be quiet until Spring, they would be paid for their lands. Finally, the Chief sent for his big pipe and filled it with tobacco and offered to smoke the pipe of peace with my father at whom he had been very bitter. The result of this last meeting at which the Nortons saved the others from being massacred

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seemed to pacify the old Chief, Hard Rope, and his warriors and no further threats were made on the whites of the community. The Osages were moved to their present reservation in 1871.

I made the Run at the Opening of the Cherokee Strip and filed upon a quarter section, one half mile north and one mile west of Newkirk. This land had been staked or claimed by a claimant who made the Run from Chilocco and I thought he could not hold the claim because Chilocco was situated in the Cherokee Strip and that man had no legal right to make the Run from that place. This contest became the basis for several similar contests and was carried to the Supreme Court where Hoke Smith's decision that people had a right to run from Chilocco, resulted in my losing the claim.

I came to Newkirk in the early days and built the Endicott Hotel and for the past twenty-seven years I have run the hotel myself.