

FLOURNOY, TOM D.

INTERVIEW

8052

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

FLOURNOY, TOM D.

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Field Worker's name Velma Hance.

This report made on (date) July 27, 1937

1. Name Tom D. Flournoy,

2. Post Office Address Saysre, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1205 North Broadway.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 14, Year 1869

5. Place of birth Quitman, Wood County, Texas.

6. Name of Father M. W. Flournoy, Place of birth Jackson,

Other information about father Mississippi.

7. Name of Mother Julia J. Jones, Place of birth Carnesville,

Other information about mother Georgia.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Velma Hance,  
Interviewer,  
July 27, 1938.

Interview with Tom D. Flournoy,  
1205 North Broadway,  
Sayre, Oklahoma.

I was born in Quitman, Wood County, Texas, in 1869, and came to Oklahoma Territory in 1898 and settled at Weatherford where I lived among the Chickasaw Tribe of Indians. I lived at Weatherford until 1902, at which time I came to Sayre, in Beckham County, by train. There were only two passengers on the train. After the train came through Clinton and was about four miles out of Clinton the train was stopped by the sheriff of Clinton who served a labor judgment of \$80.00 which the conductor of the train had to pay before they would let the train go on to Sayre, which was the end of the track at that time.

I arrived in Sayre, February 2, 1902, and went into the dry goods business, just in a small place, as Sayre was very small at that time.

They didn't carry the mail by train at that time, they carried it by horseback and in buggies.

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The Indians who were at Weatherford lived in big camps in what they called tepees. I sold lots of dry goods to the Indians. They mostly bought blankets and old-time shawls.

They ate mostly wild meats cooked on campfires in large kettles.

I was married to Leta Wells in 1904. Our first home in Sayre was a three-room shack and we got what supplies that we couldn't get in Sayre at Clinton.

We used grubs for fuel as at that time there was no coal being shipped into this part of Oklahoma.

We ate common food such as meats, beans and corn bread and we hauled water from a dug well, miles away as there was no water system in Sayre at that time.

I now live in Sayre and have closed out my dry goods stores.