

MALSON, L. D.

INTERVIEW

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

MALSON, L.'D.

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Field Worker's name Maude M. Fink,

This report made on (date) August 12, 1937

1. Name Mr. L. D. Malson,

2. Post Office Address Weatherford, Oklahoma,

3. Residence address (or location) 117 West Franklin,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 22 Year 1852

5. Place of birth Ohio,

6. Name of Father Andrew Malson Place of birth Pennsylvania

7. Name of Mother Sarah Bruton Malson Place of birth Ohio

Other information about mother Housewife

Other information about father, farmer.

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.

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Maude L. Fink,
Interviewer,
August 12, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. L. D. Malson,
117 West Franklin,
Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Mr. Malson filed in 1892 at Kingfisher; he came from Eureka, Kansas. He came to look at the land himself. He looked over the land and got the piece he wanted and went to the land office and filed on it; the office was at Kingfisher. He gave the description and application to the land and filed on it.

It was in the Cheyenne Reservation. The cattlemen and Indians had a little trouble. The cattlemen pastured the Indian allotments and the cattle were eating the grass. The Indians wanted pay and an Indian and a white man were killed over the matter. The soldiers from Fort Reno came and stayed almost all Summer and they kept peace between the Indians and the white people. They sent a man after an Indian. He became interested and stayed and they sent another man after him.

The white people went into camp and stayed a night or two. The women and children were in the tents while the

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men kept watch on the outside. The Indians came by who had papers from the Government and were peaceful Indians. The Indians decorated themselves with paint and hawk feathers.

Arapaho was the closest town. There was a store at Thomas. Everything cost so much that people did not trade much, they went to El Reno or Kingfisher.

On Deer Creek, eight miles north of Weatherford, the people had to work the bank of the creek down to get across and after the creek got "up" it had to be done again.

The southern Indians lived in the Cherokee outlet, which is fifty-eight miles across. It is north of Guthrie and El Reno.

The country was thinly settled. Mr. Malson filed on a place and went home, they had six months to file. They stayed six months out of a year and made improvements.

A squaw man was a white man who had married an Indian squaw. Few negroes lived here; they had been slaves but were then free. There were four or five families of negroes who lived in the neighborhood.

The Democrat and Republican were the two main political

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parties. There was also a party called the Fair Play Party. The closest railroad was at El Reno and Kingfisher. People lived in sod houses; they would dig holes in the ground then throw a lot of grass on the top, then throw a lot of dirt on and call it a dugout. Sometimes they were two and three rooms. The furniture was very rude, chairs were made of the ends of logs. They brought their furniture here with them when they came.

People had schools and churches as fast as they could be organized. Mr. Malson was the first member of the School Board and served for two years. The valuation of school property was \$800.00 but they raised only \$36.00 at 2 per cent valuation. Berthay Way was the first teacher, they paid her \$20.00 a month. She paid \$8.00 a month for board and room.

When a person filed on a place he could stay six months, at the end of which time he could pay \$1.50 an acre for it and it would become his permanent home. Or he could live on it five years and get it free. One had to pay \$15.00 for filing fee at the Land Office. Upon proving up, one

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got a patent from Washington with the President's name signed to it. President McKinley's name is signed to Mr. Malson's patent.

They forded the river at different places; there was a ford at Bridgeport and one farther down the river from Bridgeport called the Lump Mouth Crossing. If the river was up people would stay on the side until the water ran down to where the river could be forded.

People had larger food supplies before the railroad came through. Coffee was cheaper then; sugar was a luxury; people used molasses for sweetening. People had just enough to eat. They would grind corn for corn meal although flour was cheap; it was cheaper than meal.