

FOSTER, GEORGE D. INTERVIEW #9529

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS' PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

FOSTER, GEORGE D. INTERVIEW 9529

Field worker's name Louise Barnes

This report made on (date) December 14, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) George D. Foster,

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) ~~XXXXXX~~ White, ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~Indian~~

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

"Experiences as a Pioneer".

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3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Louise Barnes, Investigator
December 14, 1937.

George D. Foster was born in Butler County, Iowa, March 25, 1866; he received an excellent education in Iowa and guided by his mother's example and wide experience he quite naturally adopted the same vocation, teaching.

In April 1889 when the Territory of Oklahoma was going to be thrown open to white settlers. Mr. Foster and his mother came from Western Kansas, in a covered wagon with two mules and a pony and a cart, to file a claim. They were very anxious to file on some of the best land, and would stop any ranchman whom they met, inquiring what land he thought was the best and where it was located. Most ranchmen said the land located in what they called Nine Mile Bottom about ten miles northeast of where Kingfisher now stands was the best land. Then, there was only a stage ranch on the present site of Kingfisher.

Mr. Foster and his mother located on the Kansas line where it would be most convenient to reach this bottom land.

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They had quite an experience on their trip from Western Kansas; it happened on the last half mile stretch before they reached the line. Their covered wagon was built with the grub box on the back and when the lid was let down from the top of the box it made a table. This made it very convenient while they were camping on their trip to Oklahoma. They were very much afraid that they might be late for the opening because they did not know they were so close to the boundary line, so whipped the mules up to high speed galloping across the prairie with cart and pony behind when all of a sudden they hit a rut that was just too much of a jolt for the grub box and down came the lid, and flour, dishes and groceries flew in every direction, but did the Fosters stop? No! They were afraid they might be late getting to the line and rushed right on.

When the gun went off at noon on April 22, 1889, George Foster and his mother were ready to start, making the run on the two mules. Two women had borrowed their

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cart to make the run in. When Mrs. Foster and George arrived at the place they had started for, and it had only taken them an hour and a half to reach it,—they saw tents already pitched, covered wagons that had been camped there for some time, and even a man plowing with an ox team; so as they did not want to get mixed up with these "Sooners", they turned back and homesteaded seven and one half miles east, four and one half north of Kingfisher in Section twenty-five. A man filed a contest on their homestead, but gave it up.

For several years Mr. Foster taught school during the winter terms, thus acquiring funds for needed improvements on his farm.

He had a very nice farm and spent several years there, but in the later years has made his home in Kingfisher.