

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

FORD, HENRY.

INTERVIEW.

9688.

Field Worker's name John F. Daugherty.

This report made on (date) January 15, 1938. 1938

1. Name Henry Ford.

2. Post Office Address Hickory, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Murray County.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 22 Year 1875.

5. Place of birth Arkansas.

6. Name of Father James W. Ford. Place of birth North Carolina.

Other information about father Farmer--Practitioner.

7. Name of Mother Betty Geno Place of birth Mississippi.

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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John F. Daugherty,
Investigator,
Jan. 15, 1938.

Interview With Henry Ford,
Hickory, Oklahoma.

My parents were James W. Ford born in North Carolina, and Betty Geno Ford, born in Mississippi. Father was a farmer and practitioner. There were six children in our family. I was born in Arkansas, February 22, 1875, and moved with my parents to the Indian Territory in 1888.

We settled at Thackerville in the Chickasaw Nation. We lived in a double log house chinked with red mud. We had a six shooter chimney. This was made of sticks and dirt for the lower part. The stem was made of sheet iron made into a pipe. It was placed on the lower part of the chimney, and was fastened with mud and stay wires, fastened to the logs to keep the wind from blowing it down.

Father built a small log room in the yard for my brother and me to sleep in. Many a morning in the winter we awoke to find our bed completely covered with snow. We crawled out of bed and ran barefooted through the snow to the main log house where a cheery fire in the fireplace awaited us. Here we warmed our feet and put on our shoes.

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There were very few doctors in those days, although there was no law regarding medical practice and anybody who desired could call on those who were sick. The few doctors we had were uneducated, most of them just read "doctor books" and prescribed according to them, carrying their medicine with them. One day a neighbor became very ill. A man who pretended to be a doctor was called. I happened to be there, and as the doctor came out I asked him what was the matter with the man. He replied, "He's sick". But he was unable to tell what was the matter with his patient.

Another incident which I remember was when a neighbor had a sick child. They sent a grown son for the doctor, and the doctor was so drunk that the boy had to drive his horse for him. When they arrived at the house the boy got out of the buggy, helped the doctor out and the doctor couldn't stand. He fell to the ground, crawled to the house and then through it on his hands and knees. He crawled out the back door and to a shade where he lay down and slept for three hours. When he awoke he asked what he was there for. Somebody told him there was a

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child inside the house who needed his attention. He got up, went into the house, gave the child some medicine to be taken as he prescribed and departed. The child recovered. Incidents like these were common, so people preferred to doctor themselves when they became ill.

Father moved south of Ardmore in 1891 and had a running lease for ten years under a Chickasaw Indian. This was a lease which required that a certain number of acres be added to those already in cultivation each year of the ten, thus enlarging the amount of cultivated land each year.

I married Gertrude Hodges at Ardmore in 1907 and we moved to Hickory in Murray County. Here we have resided since.