

FOURMENTIER, CHARLIE

INTERVIEW #8916

355

FOURMENTIER CHARLIE

INTERVIEW

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Virgil CourseyThis report made on (date) October 13, 1937.1. Name Charlie Fourmentier2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 11 Year 18825. Place of birth Dallas County, Texas.6. Name of Father M.E. Fourmentier Place of birth Paris, France

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Alexandra Davis Place of birth Paris, France

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 \_\_\_\_\_

FOURMENTIER, CHARLIE

INTERVIEW

8916

Virgil Coursey,  
Interviewer,  
October 13, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Charlie Fourmentier,  
Altus, Oklahoma.

My parents were born in Paris, France and came to New York when they were young. They remained in New York two years and then moved to Dallas County, Texas.

In 1890, when I was eight years of age, we came to Oklahoma and settled one mile east and seven and one half south of Altus. I had a brother named Henry and a sister named Aggie.

In 1890 this was a cattle country with free range. One could travel in almost any direction without running into a fence. There were no roads and one either struck out across the prairie or followed some trail.

There were quite a few antelope here, and some deer which I presume came from the Indian Territory. We lived in a dugout as practically everyone else did.

We had no money and lived principally on rabbits.

FOURMENTIER, CHARLIE

INTERVIEW

8918

- 2 -

We caught rabbits, dressed them and sent them to Vernon on the mail hack. We received twenty-five cents a dozen for them. With this small income we managed to have cornbread, eggs, sweet milk, butter and salt pork.

We had no wells at first and drove our stock to the Salt Fork of the Red River and let them graze during the day and drove them back home at night.

Our first corn crop was planted every third furrow on sod. My father secured a horse power thrasher and thrashed wheat all over the country. We sold a thousand bushels of oats in one year for twelve and fifteen cents a bushel and were glad to get it. Wheat brought forty to fifty cents a bushel. It was necessary to haul farm products to Vernon to market them. This was a two days' trip. Nights were spent in a wagon yard, and bacon was cooked in a frying pan and coffee made in a tomato can.

Our post office was at Locke. Mail was carried from Mangum to Vernon by hack. At certain intervals

FOURMENTIER, CHARLIE

INTERVIEW

8916

- 3 -

teams were changed and the mail was relayed from these places. There were post offices at Hess and Navajo , also at Dot. Dot is now known as Blair and the town of Navajo was moved to Headrick.

From 1903 to 1905 this country became practically deserted. People were discouraged because it was so dry that no crops could be raised. After a few years, however, there was another boom and the country settled up quite rapidly.

Hacks and spring wagons were the main conveyances in the early days. People traveled long distances to church and entertainments. Old fashioned picnics were held around the creeks, Turkey Creek, Round Timbers and Nine Miles Spring being the favorite places.

Base ball was a favorite game then, just as it now is. The boys of a community occasionally arranged for an old fashioned dance and rode horseback all over the country notifying people to come. Most houses had not more than two rooms, so the furniture was taken outside leaving the rooms bare for the dance. After the dance

FOURMENTIER, CHARLIE    INTERVIEW    8916

- 4 -

the furniture was quickly returned to its accustomed place in the house. Fiddlers furnished the music .

In 1909 I was married to Josie B. Gardner. We have lived in Altus for a number of years. We have four children.