

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

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FREEMAN, C. H. - INTERVIEW.

10363

Field Worker's name Robert W. SmallThis report made on (date) March 22, 19381. Name C. H. Freeman2. Post Office Address Newkirk, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) Same4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 12 Year 18565. Place of birth Minnesota.6. Name of Father R. Freeman Place of birth New York7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Rowley Place of birth Ohio

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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Small, Robert W.- Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149
March 22, 1938.

Interview with C. H. Freeman
Newkirk, Oklahoma

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I was born September 12th, 1856, in Minnesota. In 1871 my parents moved to Kansas. In the early Spring of 1875 I set out from Caldwell, Kansas, driving a six mule team hitched to a wagon headed for the Cheyenne Agency to engage in hauling freight and other work that I might find to do in that section of the country.

I hauled some freight for a Mr. Whittaker who ran a commissary at the Agency and also for Lee & Runnels who conducted a commissary store and they also had lands leased upon which they had considerable farming done. I hauled freight from Wichita and Arkansas City to the Cheyenne Agency. This freight consisted of food supplies for the Indians, principally, and other articles used by the Indians and the few whites of the settlement. It required several days to make a round trip for freight and occasionally high water or bad weather caused long delays on the road:

I also worked some for Lee & Runnels at a time when

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the Cheyenne Indians were threatening to make trouble in that section of the country. They gave me a Winchester rifle and told me to go out to where some men were plowing in a field for them and to station myself where I could observe the men at all times and to guard them against any attack by Indians. I did as they suggested, taking my station near the land they were plowing, and I sat down in the warm sunshine and sat there for hours and finally I went to sleep. Suddenly something kicked me on the leg and woke me up and I looked up into the face of an Indian squaw who frightened me at first but she was only one of the friendly Indians passing that way.

In 1879 I carried the mail from Arkansas City, Kansas, to the Sac & Fox Agency on horseback. I left Arkansas City in the morning and stopped at Ponca Indian Agency where I took dinner, then rode on to Pawnee Agency, where I remained over night. The next day at noon I ate dinner at Whistlers Ranch on the Cimmaron River and then rode on to the Sac & Fox Agency that afternoon, taking four days to make one round trip. Ferguson & Ferrill had the contract with the Government to carry the mail over this route, and I was working for them. On one occasion the postmaster at the

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Ponca City Agency broke the key off in the lock to the mail pouch as I was making the trip to the Sac & Fox Agency and he couldn't open the pouch to get mail out for his office. I proceeded on my trip and on my return as I stopped at the Pawnee Agency, the postmaster left the pouch unlocked so the postmaster at Ponca Agency could get his mail; and this method of leaving the pouch unlocked at postoffices on either side of Ponca Agency was continued until a new key could be secured from Washington.

In 1881, I carried the mail over this same route in a buck board, which is a four wheel conveyance having slats or strips of strong wood across the bottom for a bed.

In 1896, I came to Newkirk, Oklahoma^{Territory} and established a clothes cleaning establishment which I conducted for twenty years, but retired from active work some years ago on account of my health.