

GIBSON, DOYLE

INTERVIEW

#9288

389

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

390

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Field worker's name Jimmie Birdwell

This report made on (date) November 15, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Doyle Gibson

Address 1225 Southwest 29th Street, Oklahoma City.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story An Early Day Coal Miner.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 1

An Interview with Doyle Gibson, Early Day Coal Miner.
By - Jimmie Birdwell, Investigator.
November 15, 1937.

I moved to McAlester about 1898 from Pennsylvania; I came in a wagon and had my mind made up to get into the coal business but I soon found out that a man with a small amount of money could not do very much.

I worked in town a while then rented a little farm out about sixteen miles east of town; there was an outcropping of coal on the place and I stripped off the dirt on top with a slip and dug the coal out myself.

I would haul the coal to McAlester in a wagon and peddle it out.

I usually would trade my load of coal for groceries at some store; this was slow work and about all I made out of it was our food which was pretty good at that time.

I kept this up until the opening of the big mines close up to town and I could not haul my coal into town and sell it as cheaply as the companies did but as long as I lived on the place I had coal for my own use.