

GLASS, I. D.

INTERVIEW

10648

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

GLASS, I. D.

INTERVIEW

#10648

Field Worker's name Don Moon, Jr.

This report made on (date) April 25 1938

1. Name I. D. Glass

2. Post Office Address Guthrie, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 701 North Broad

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 29 Year 1861

5. Place of birth Virginia

6. Name of Father William G. Glass Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Farmer and carpenter

7. Name of Mother Mary Hicks Place of birth Tennessee

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 7

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Don Moon, Jr.
Investigator
April 25, 1938

Interview with I. D. Glass
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Mr. Glass, with his wife and small daughter, was living about fourteen miles west of Wichita in the Spring of 1889. A Reverend Osbourne, who had been secretary to Captain Payne, made up a colony of thirty men and Mr. Glass joined his party. Because Osbourne had made numerous trips into the unassigned lands with Payne, he was acquainted with it, and was to locate the men on good farms. Mr. Glass said that he paid Reverend Osbourne \$5.00 and supposed that was the amount the others paid.

They started on Tuesday, almost a week before the date set but as all the rivers were high, progress was slow. The Chikaskia was high but they made it across. They got to the Salt Fork on Friday. There was a big crowd of people there, afraid to cross. The Osbourne party was driving a big lumber wagon pulled by four mules and decided to try it. They piled all the bedding up high on an overjet on the wagon and drove in. Mr. Glass was riding the lead mule.

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When they struck the current the mule went clear under. So did all the other mules and also the wagon, but after a lot of work they all got safely across and made fires to dry out their bedding and clothing. /

They reached the line (southern line of the Cherokee Strip) on Saturday morning, April 20. Osbourne took them about a half mile east of the trail, and they made camp there. Sunday they had preaching, a Reverend Ashman in the party doing the preaching.

That evening two soldiers came to Mr. Glass's tent and said they were too far off the trail and would have to get back. He took them up to Osbourne's tent. They knew him and ate supper with him. When they were leaving they said, "Now, we have orders to keep everyone from crossing the "line" until noon tomorrow, but of course if we don't see anyone, we can't stop them. Wait until the moon is up tonight, and you can slip down this ravine."

As soon as it was dark they could hear a steady procession of people going down the ravine under cover of the trees. Some of the men in Osbourne's party wanted to go too. He called them together and they talked it over,

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and decided to wait and go in at the right time.

That evening after services these men built a bridge over a little creek near the line, and that put them ahead of the rest of the crowd.

Osbourne had planned on locating his men on the Skeleton bottom lands, but when they reached there about one P. M. most of the good places were taken. Several men had plowed quite a bit, and one man had his sod house finished. So the party scattered about, looking for vacant land. Some went over in the Camp Russell neighborhood, some went west. Mr. Glass found the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 32-18N-2W vacant. Three or four of the other men slept there with him the first night.

Joe Woods, Mort Corey, Grant Corey and Luke Brindley went southwest, and located in Woodlawn township. Johnnie Gibson and George Kuhn and Reverend Ashman got claims. The rest went back to Kansas.

Mr. Glass says he came to Guthrie the next day, and there was no great crowd around the land office; but he thought there was no hurry about filing on his claim, so

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went back to it. He invited Kuhn to go over and see his homestead. While they were looking it over, a man came out of some timber. He was carrying a Winchester. He said the place belonged to him and his name was Riddle. Mr. Glass told him, "You took the place next to mine. I saw you yesterday, working on a foundation for a house." Riddle insisted that this was a part of his place. Mr. Glass offered to go with him to look up the cornerstones, and if his foundation was on that quarter section he would leave. They started off together, Kuhn with them. After going a little way, Riddle stopped and said "I'm going to have this claim anyway". Kuhn insisted that they go no further with him. He was sure that he was a dangerous man. He appeared to be part Mexican or Indian. Riddle asked Mr. Glass if he had started to dig a dugout or something in a certain spot. He told him he had not. Weeks later Mr. Glass found the place, it was the size and shape of a grave and was in high grass, with the grass bent over the opening. Mr. Glass believed Riddle thought he would go right down there to investigate and that Riddle planned to shoot him and bury him there.

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When Mr. Glass went into Guthrie to file there was such a long line waiting to file that he just had to get on the end and wait. The third man to join the line behind him was Riddle, who kept trying to buy someone's place ahead of him. Mr. Glass told the Marshal what was up, and he said to let him know if Riddle managed to get ahead of him. They called in five at a time, and were handling about sixty-five a day. When Mr. Glass' time came, and the five were called, Riddle was left. He came over and asked Mr. Glass what he would give him to clear out. Mr. Glass handed him \$3.00 and Riddle left. That was on the twenty-ninth of April.

Mr. Glass went back to Kansas to finish his crops up there, and came back on August 4. Two people had been watching to jump the place if he were gone over six months.

Mr. Glass had a wife and daughter almost three. They lived in a tent from August until November, then built a 14 x 16 foot house, made of 12" boards up and down.

Soon after they moved down, Mr. Glass took typhoid. Mrs. Glass says she called the doctor when she had to have him, by hanging a red blanket on the end of the tent. Old

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Doc Morgan, a neighbor, could see it from his house. When Mr. Glass was well and the doctor bill paid, they had just \$30.00 left to do them through the first winter. They had only one cow, but Mrs. Glass sold butter, driving a mule to a topless buggy seven and one-half miles to Guthrie, and boarded a man, doing his laundry, too, for \$3.00 a week in order to buy groceries.

In the fall, Mr. Glass and his neighbor Kuhn went back to Kansas to dig potatoes and came back with enough potatoes to do them all winter, and the rest of their milch cows. They had not been able to bring the cows across the Strip until after frost, because of regulations guarding against Texas fever. During the three weeks her husband was away on this trip, Mrs. Glass and her three year old daughter were alone on the claim. She was busy feeding their hogs, milking the cow, scaring away chicken-thieves by propping the gun against a chair, and firing out the window, and shelling corn to burn for fuel, but she still had time to be afraid.

Mr. Glass and Joe Waldren hauled the first piling from Crescent, for the first bridge across the Cimarron

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where the Highway 77 bridge is now. A brother of Charlie Grant had the contract to build that bridge.

Mr. Glass also donated timber off of his claim, and hauled it to Mulhall to have it sawed as his donation toward the first schoolhouse in the 4B district.

Mrs. Glass recalls walking two miles, and crossing a railroad trestle with her own little girl and nine children of a neighbor's every Sunday to attend Sunday School and preaching at the schoolhouse. Later a church was built also called the 4 B, but burned after a few years. She says they do not even try to keep up Sunday School out in that neighborhood now.

They left the farm twenty-one years ago because of Mr. Glass' ill health, but they still own the old homestead and their daughter lives on it.