

GOODWILL, BENJAMIN P. INTERVIEW #8164

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

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GOODWILL, BENJAMIN F.

INTERVIEW.

8164.

Field Worker's name Ida A Merwin.This report made on (date) August 9, 1937. 19371. Name Benjamin F. Goodwill.2. Post Office Address Pt. 4, Perry, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) 3 miles west, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  north of Perry.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 8 Year 1856.5. Place of birth Jasper County, Iowa.6. Name of Father Ervin E. Goodwill Place of birth Other information about father 7. Name of Mother Martha M. (Brown) Goodwill. Place of birth Kentucky.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 3.

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Ida A. Merwin,  
Field worker,  
August 9, 1937.

An interview with Benjamin Goodwill,  
Route 4, Perry, Oklahoma.

I am the son of Ervin E. and Martha (Brown) Goodwill.

When a small lad my parents moved to Kansas where I was reared.

In the fall of 1892 I went to the old Oklahoma country to secure some land. Upon inquiry at the land office I found there was some land that had never been filed on, so I filed on a claim and located on it. This was about eight miles from Clarkston where I secured my groceries and mail. I had no means of transportation, so I would make the trip on foot and carry my supplies, which often proved quite a task.

Later the town of Marena was established and this was only two miles from my place. There was a post office at this place, also, making it much more convenient for supplies and mail.

My first house on this land was a one-room log cabin and was not finished on the inside; the logs used were in the rough. I lived in this for three years.

During this time I did not have any implements or team so worked for others single-handed in exchange for team and plows to care for my crops.

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At the end of the third year I went to Iowa where I was married and, after I secured a team and wagon, my wife and I returned to Oklahoma, making the trip in a covered wagon, in which we lived until I built a house. which was a 10' x 16' half dugout, the part about the ground being of stone. A short time after this I bought a hewed log house for forty dollars which I joined to the other house, this making us a fair sized house.

I raised good crops, consisting of corn, wheat and broom corn, but did not get much for them. One year I sold the wheat for twenty cents a bushel. The broom corn made a good crop but as I did not have the proper machinery for seeding and baling; I did not get very good prices.

There was much wild game in this country. I have killed a number of wild turkeys and one deer, which proved a great help to me in providing meat for the family. It was not unusual for coyotes to come near the house and I have killed several in the yard. They were very destructive to poultry and young stock.

In the fall of 1891, I made the race in the town of Chandler, securing a lot which I sold the next day for ten

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dollars and then returned to my home and continued farming.

In 1893 I made the run in the opening of the Cherokee Strip, starting at a point four miles east of Orlando. I made the race on horseback, my wife following with the wagon and team, bringing supplies. I did not secure a farm but staked a lot in the town of Perry, which I sold a few days later and returned to the farm in old Oklahoma.

After I proved up on this land in 1897 I sold out and returned to Iowa where I remained for seven years, but then returned to Oklahoma and located in Noble County in 1904, where I now reside in the home of one of my daughter. My wife is an invalid in a wheel chair, and lives with another daughter whose home is on an adjoining farm.