

JONES, RICHARD

INTERVIEW

#9374

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INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

9374

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. VestalThis report made on (date) December 2 19371. Name Richard (Dick) Jones2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 708 D. Avenue4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 4 Year 18745. Place of birth Macon, Missouri

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____.

Ophelia D. Vestal
Investigator
December 2, 1937

Interview with
Richard (Dick) Jones
Lawton, Oklahoma.

I was born in Macon City, Missouri, on December 4, 1874, spending all my boyhood days in Macon City and receiving my education there.

A group of fifteen came to Lawton on July 26, 1901, near the day of the opening of the Kiowa-Comanche lands, on August 6. This was a great country and we met all kinds of people.

I decided that I would start out in the hardware business and told my folks that when I had located I'd write for them to ship my merchandise. I wrote them and the goods came to Richard Spur; as there wasn't any railroad here then, my goods were brought to Lawton by wagon trains, pulled by ox or mule teams. My store would have been the twenty-ninth hardware store in this new town. A few of the first hardware men offered to buy my stock so I sold out at cost.

I have been mayor of Lawton for three terms and I have found that the people cooperated with me one hundred per cent.

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In the early days among the many things that happened here were the big fires; once, a fire started and twelve horses were burned. Until I saw this sight I never realized what a big fire meant. Every once in a while, a fire would break out; one burned the main part of town, one burned on the prairie northwest of town and that nearly got to the town's edge. Water was so scarce, it had to be hauled from the creek and was sold. Soon an order was circulated and each store had to keep a barrel of water and a bucket handy all the time.

When several gun shots were heard that meant a fire and these gun shots were used instead of a fire bell.

My brother and I entered the drug business in the early day and operated it until one year ago.

The first courthouse was a covered wagon erected by the sheriff on the southeast corner of the present courthouse square. The wheels were used to chain prisoners to.