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An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BLEVINS, WILLIAM . INTERVIEW.

4406

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INDEX CARDS

Cherokee Outlet

Exld

Dugout

Haskew Flats

School-Dugout

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

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4406

Field Worker's name Alton J. Chase

This report made on (date) June 12, 1937

1. Name William Elvin

2. Post Office Address Woodward, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 508 North 10th Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 10 Year 1887

5. Place of birth Picksville, Tennessee

6. Name of Father Sam Elvin Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Melinda Murphy 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

I was born in Tennessee, later went to Texas, stayed there two years, and then went over by Enid, Oklahoma, and worked for a man by the name of Haskew. In the fall of 1899 I filed on a 160 acres of land in the Haskew flats. I was the first person to file in that part of the country, which is in the northeast part of Woodward County. I then helped to locate lots of other people, and the country was settled fast after that.

My house had ~~one room~~ I made it part dugout and part boarded up of cottonwood lumber. For water I went down in the canyon at eleven o'clock in the morning, and by night we had a well dug that furnished plenty of water. I had to draw the water with bucket and rope, and carry it about one-fourth of a mile home.

I would go to the canyons and cut cedar posts, and haul them over by Enid and sell them for from fourteen to nine cents a piece. I would also haul salt from the salt plains, which I would gather up and sell it over the country for forty-five cents a bushel. It would take several days to make a trip selling a load of salt or cedar posts. I would buy merchandise and bring it back and sell to the early day settlers.

This man Haskew, that I had worked for, had a store nine miles west of Enid, Oklahoma, at a place called Wilcox.

Seeing how badly a store was needed in my community, he wanted me to move his store over to my place, and for me to run it for him. So I built a store building 14 x 20 feet and we moved his store over, and my wife would run it, while I still traded and farmed. Business was so good that we had to build more room on to our store, and then we built us a house on the side.

The first year after I filed, I would go back over by Eid and work in the wheat harvest, and work on threshing machines for \$1.25 per day, and would sleep in a straw stack at night.

We planted kaffir corn and corn in the early days. I planted a patch of Irish potatoes, just turned the sod over them and then went to harvest. We had a big crop and sold them for \$1.25 per bushel.

In 1902 or 1903 I got up a petition for a postoffice at Haskew, which was approved. My wife was postmistress and it was named Haskew. She continued to be postmistress for about five years.

Our first school was in a dugout. The children went from four to six miles, as this was the only school in the community. We would also hold Sunday School and literary

in the schoolhouse.

Those were the happiest days of my life. We had no doctor, and none was needed. When we first came out there to settle, the cowboys told us if we were going there with the intention of making our home to bring plenty of nerve along, which we did. We also brought our shotguns and winchesters, but never had to use them. Every year we would hold a big three-day Fourth of July celebration, with ball games and balloon ascensions. About the only trouble we had was with horse thieves. I remember once when they stole fourteen in one night. Part of them were found and returned.

In 1838 I was elected sheriff of Woodward County and served for four years. I still own my farm in the Haskew flats. I now live in the town of Woodward.