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BLAKELEY, JAMES MADISON (SR.) INTERVIEW

8743 380

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

BLAKELEY, JAMES MADISON, (SR.) INTERVIEW 8743

Field Worker's name Alson J. Chase

This report made on (date) September 29 1937

1. Name James Madison Blakeley, Sr.

2. Post Office Address Supply, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) R. # I

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 8 Year 1844

5. Place of birth Athens County, Ohio

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 _____.

BLAKELEY, JAMES MADISON (SR.) INTERVIEW 8743

Alson J. Chase,
Interviewer,
September 29, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. James Madison Blakeley, Sr.,
R. I, Supply, Oklahoma.

In 1869 he commenced to punch cattle and continued doing this for four years.

In 1900 he decided to come to Oklahoma and go into the cattle business so he loaded his family into a covered wagon and came and settled on a hundred and sixty acres southwest of Fort Supply where his first house was part board and part dugout.

His first well he dug by hand and got plenty of water at twelve feet but the location was bad- so later Mr. Blakeley dug another well out in the field and again got plenty of water at thirty feet. He later abandoned this well and dug one by the house. When he was down about sixty feet he struck what he called a cap-rock. They used a little old hand drill and kept trying to get through the rock and one day Mr. Blakeley went into the house to cook dinner and left his son out in the well

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when he heard him shouting so he went out and the boy had gotten through the rock and the water was shooting up out of the well. Mr. Blakeley dropped a rope down and rescued his son before the water rose too high. It rose about twenty feet. However, this was not good water- it was "gin" water.

Then Mr. Blakeley started his fourth well a short distance from this last one, and again hit the cap rock, but when getting through it they did get good water at last. The water only stands about eight inches deep in the well, but Mr. Blakeley has a windmill up and always has water as the well never was dry.

Mr. Blakeley was an early day Baptist Minister. He never did go into the cattle business on account of finances.

In 1902 a horse fell on his son's leg and badly crushed it; the boy had to be taken to Wichita to the hospital, and remained there six months. Times were hard and Mr. Blakeley had to borrow \$165.00 in order to pay his

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son's hospital bill and bring him home so he went to Woodward, to the Gerlach Bank, to borrow the money. He got the money agreeing, to pay 2 per cent interest per month, but he had to get fourteen of his neighbors and friends to go on his note. Mr. Blakeley is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and has been a Mason for forty-five years.

His crops were kaffir and broom corn mostly and some wheat. He had just a few cattle and worked out at anything he could get to do. He cut cedar posts and sold them.

Mr. Blakeley is now ninety-three years old but still lives on his farm- although he is not very active. He can still drive his car and has a new Oklahoma drivers' license.