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BOTTS, WILLIAM P.

INTERVIEW

8742

431

BOTTS, WILLIAM P.

INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149) #8742

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

432

Field Worker's name Alson J. Chase

This report made on (date) August 30, 1937

1. Name William P. Botts

2. Post Office Address Woodward, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1315 South 8th Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 9, Year 1872

5. Place of birth Monroe County, Missouri

6. Name of Father William J. Botts Place of birth -

Other information about father -

7. Name of Mother Elnora Elkin 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 3.

Interview with William P. Botts
Woodward, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Alson J. Chase
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
August 30, 1937

William P. Botts was born on a farm in Monroe County, Missouri, in 1872.

He was educated in country schools with two years at Central College at Fayette, Missouri.

He gave himself to the ministry and at Hermitage, Missouri, in 1901, was ordained to the gospel ministry in the Missionary Baptist Church. For two years he labored in southwest Missouri, then in 1903 he went to Hollenburg, Kansas, and remained there as pastor until 1905, when he was attracted to northwestern Oklahoma, to enter into pioneer missionary work.

The Cherokee Strip had been opened for settlement in 1893 and by 1905 most of Western Oklahoma had been filed on by people from North, East, and South.

Most of these claim holders of Western Oklahoma came with very little means and many without any means at all.

The miracle of miracles is how many of these people stayed long enough to prove up on their claims.

From a financial stand-point Western Oklahoma offered very little inducement to the missionary but the religious need of the country offered him unbounded opportunity.

To such a field and opportunity the Reverend Mr. Botts came and into school-houses, dugouts, and sod houses he went, and the people received him kindly and shared their scanty board with this preacher.

A-foot, horseback and later in a buggy, this "Man of God" went everywhere preaching the gospel.

Reverend Botts still fills an empty pulpit occasionally and his sincerity and earnestness have made him an able preacher of the gospel.

He still lives in Woodward.