

KIMBLE, A. B.

INTERVIEW - 10409

69

INDUSTRIAL BUREAU
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Plantation History Project Oklahoma

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INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) April 1, 1938

1. Name A. B. Kimble
2. Post Office Address Lawton
3. Residence address (or location) 909 So 6th
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 9 Year 84 yrs.
5. Place of birth Cincinnati, 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 4.

KIMBLE, A. B.

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10409

Ophelia D. Vestal
Investigator
April 1, 1938

Interview with A. B. Kimble
Lawton, Oklahoma.

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I came with my parents and their nine other children to Southern Kansas where my father got a claim near Winfield, Kansas. We lived here until my parents died, then left Kansas and moved to Tonkawa. The farm I owned near Tonkawa would have proved very profitable had I only kept it three years longer. There are now only three left from our family of twelve.

I was here at Lawton two weeks before the opening date. In the morning of August 6, 1901, I bought a lot paying \$330.00 for it. In the afternoon I gave a surveyor \$5.00 to find the lot for me. There hasn't been any changes in the title to this lot. I put up a good building and operated a hardware store for six years; my two boys and I were partners. We sold everything from toothpicks to threshing machines. Later, my boys went into the banking business and are still in the business at Tuttle, being associated with me and another man. We four have controlling interest with me for president.

My wife drew the plan for this house I'm living in on a small piece of cardboard, but before it was finished she passed

KIMBLE, A. B.

INTERVIEW

10409

-2-

away. That was thirty-two years ago. I have been in over half the states in the United States.

When I first went to Fort Sill I wasn't of age. I worked with the Government, hauling flour and supplies to the Fort.

In 1871, men of our neighborhood in Kansas would go in bodies of as many as twenty, sometimes with ten teams to hunt buffalo. We didn't have to go very far until we found a large buffalo herd. We killed what we wanted and took the quarters and hides home. The hides were shipped to Eastern states. The buffalo quarters we wanted to keep were put down in salt as pork is cured, placed in barrels and kept good for the next summer's use. The quarters not put down for future use were hung outside in a tree or on a perch. We went on several buffalo hunts, which we all enjoyed. We slept under the wagons to keep from being run over by dogs, wild horses and sometimes Indians. One time on our way hunting, a band of several Indian bucks followed us a good ways, but finally disappeared in the woods.

The first trip I made to this country, several men were working for the Government, as I worked. We stopped at an Indian camp. I was the youngest of the group, and the men got to joking me about wanting the old Indian man's daughter. I didn't ever think of such,

KIMBLE, A. B.

INTERVIEW

10409

-3-

but they joked me pretty much. Finally, they went too far; the old Indian man wanted to know what they were laughing at. They thought he knew more of what they said than he really knew, so they told him I was single and wanted his daughter. He told me I could have her and he'd give me ten ponies. Well, we just left as soon as we could.

I had three cousins killed in the Civil War. My father was drafted three times but he was crippled in his hip, and they wouldn't take him. However, he was chosen as a "Home Guard Captain" to guard the homes so the ones who were fighting wouldn't get too near the homes and kill the women and children.

I remember one incident about Indians in the early days of Kansas. The father and mother of a family went to a nearby trading store. While they were gone several Indians came to the home to rob it. They went inside and went through the house taking what they pleased. A large boy had been left to watch over the smaller children while the parents were away. The children hid outside. This older boy got the ax and never said anything but let the Indians do what they wanted to. He hid by the door and killed most of them as they came out. The few who

KIMBLE, A. B.

INTERVIEW

10409

-4-

got away hurried away and told the other Indians what had happened. As news spread the Indians grew very angry and wanted to go in and kill the boy for killing so many. The Government took charge of the affair and placed the boy out of the state for safe keeping.