

LEONARD, GROVER.

INTERVIEW

8154

229

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History - Oklahoma

LEONARD, GROVER. INTERVIEW. 8154.

Field Worker's name Maude M. Fink.

This report made on (date) July 29, 1937

1. Name Grover Leonard

2. Post Office Address Indianapolis, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Route #1

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 11 Year 1884

5. Place of birth Ninnekah, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father John J. Leonard Place of birth Columbus, Georgia.

7. Name of Mother Ida Goodman Leonard Place of birth Jackson County, Texas.

Other information about mother House-wife

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 2

LEONARD, GROVER.

INTERVIEW.

8154.

Maude M. Fink.
Field Worker,
July 29, 1937.

An Interview with Grover Leonard.
Indianapolis, Oklahoma.

The Chisholm Trail came from Fort Elliott just south of the Union School house. Freight was hauled to town in Oklahoma Territory over this trail, on to the Panhandle of Texas. The trail crossed the South Canadian River just west of the present town of Bridgeport, followed Deer Creek and came by old Weatherford, which was two miles north of Weatherford.

Bill Weatherford ran the store which was the first rural grocery store in the country. The railroad followed in the valley of Little Deer Creek so they moved the town to where Weatherford is today. The roads in the country were the shortest way and the best place to cross the creeks and rivers.

There were Star mail routes. Mr. Robertson got the contract to carry the mail from El Reno to Arapaho. There were also post offices at Cordell and Cloud Chief.

Clarence Gannaway was the Federal detective hired to break up the mail robberies. Several of the packages were lost so Mr. Gannaway addressed packages to himself and one time he addressed

-2-

a package containing gloves to himself. They got lost and he bought them from Mr. Robertson. Passengers rode on these stage hacks.

There were three classes of house dugouts with sod roofs, houses with walls built of split cedar logs and home-made shingles, and houses made out of cottonwood lumber. There was a sawmill at Weatherford and one at Watonga.

There were two schools in the East side of the county, a one-room school at old Weatherford and a subscription school where each settler would give ten dollars in money or lumber.

Eunice Woods was the first teacher and the school was of a three months term. Seats were made out of 1x12 cottonwood boards. Each settler took turn hauling wood to the school house. There were no grades and no examinations and just four subjects taught. They used the old McGuffey books. The boys wore homemade clothes made out of jeans and brass-toed boots.

I had my office once three blocks north of the Magnolia Filling Station in Weatherford; I worked for the Hudson Bay Fur Company.

My brother and I shipped out the last bunch of cattle out of Custer County-over 18,000 head.