

UNDERWOOD, F. L.

INTERVIEW

#9102

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

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UNDERWOOD, F. L. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION 9102

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

INTERVIEW

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.This report made on (date) October 29 19371. Name F. L. Underwood2. Post Office Address Tabler, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) Route 14. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Janurary Day 5 Year 18725. Place of birth Missouri6. Name of Father J. W. Underwood Place of birth OhioOther information about father Buried Jasper County, Missouri7. Name of Mother Almire Pierce Place of birth OhioOther information about mother Buried Jasper County, Missouri,

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 _____

Thad Smith Jr.
Investigator
October 29, 1957

Interview with
F. L. Underwood
Pablar, Oklahoma.

I came to the Indian Territory from Kansas, in 1897. My wife, two children and I came in a covered wagon that had an overjet built on it. The overjet gave us twice so much room in the wagon, and in rainy or cold weather all of us could sleep in the wagon, out of the weather.

We liked the looks of the country around Blackwell and decided to stop there.

The first few months that we were there I freighted wheat to Newkirk and freighted groceries and hardware from Newkirk to Blackwell. I got six and eight cents per hundred for freighting one way. It is about fifteen miles from Blackwell to Newkirk.

The next spring I rented a good farm near Blackwell which I planted to corn and oats. I had one hundred and twenty acres of corn that made sixty-five bushel to the acre. I had about thirty acres of oats that made fifty

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bushels to the acre. I sold my corn to a cattle feeder for thirty-five cents per bushel and I got twenty-five cents per bushel for my oats.

In farming my corn crop I used a new departure walking cultivator. This cultivator had wooden beams but didn't have a tongue. Our crops then didn't get so weedy as they do now.

We got our mail at Blackwell every day. It was brought over from Newark in a two-horse hack.

My children went to Blackwell to school, which was a good one.

We had three churches in Blackwell, the Christian, Methodist and Baptist.

There was quite a bit of grass land near Blackwell. This grass was cut once a year for hay. It yielded from three to four tons to the acre. I helped bale hay every year. The baling wire was bought in big rolls. The wire was stretched and then cut the length desired. Then loops were tied in one end of the wire.

We used a horse power, foot press hay baler. The

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hay was sold to livery stable owners who had buggies and hacks for hire, for four dollars per ton.

There were lots of coyotes and lefer wolves in the country, also a few quail and prairie chickens and lots of ducks.

We had fairly good improvements on the farms. Nearly all of our wells were hand dug.

Practically all of the people near Blackwell were Northern people, but they were very neighborly.

We used to have lots of square dances in our community.

I lived at Blackwell until 1907, then moved to New Mexico.