

VALENTINE, ULYSSES GRANT

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Merrill A. Nelson

This report made on (date) July 2, 1937

Name Ulysses Grant Valentine  
 Post Office Address Enid, Route 2  
 Residence address (or location) One mile south and two and a half miles west of Carrier  
 DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 16 Year 1866  
 Place of birth Whiteside County, Illinois

Name of Father John Goodley Valentine Place of birth Wisconsin  
 Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Mother Helen M. Briggs Place of birth New York State  
 Other information about mother Wisconsin.  
Mother of 7 children  
one brother (painter-farmer) and 5 sisters.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Interview with Ulysses Grant Valentine  
Carrier, Oklahoma

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Right after Old Oklahoma opened, I had been down through the Cherokee strip country, looking it over. A crowd of us went from Arkansas City south, towards Guthrie. We came to the Cimarron River. It was too high to cross, so we returned. Orlando was almost the only city we saw. It consisted of two or three stores and half a dozen houses.

I did not return until the spring of 1893, when I located on my father-in-law's farm, where I worked until time to make the run, into the Cherokee Strip. This farm was located nine miles southwest of Hennessey. I made the run from a point six miles west of Hennessey.

Eleven of us made the run. I located on my present place. This is identified as the northwest quarter of section twenty-two, Township twenty-three, Range eight. My father-in-law, Mr. Prior, secured a claim located just north <sup>of</sup> the northeast quarter Section twenty eight, Township twenty three, Range eight. This was Mrs. Fisher's

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place, or claim. Her name then was Ada Prior. Mr.

Mitchell also got a claim located at the southeast quarter section twenty-eight, Township twenty three, Range eight. Most others who got claims in this area have passed on, as has Mr. Prior. My parents are buried at Makita.

There was no water on the place. I went to my father-in-law's place for water as there was a creek on his farm. There was no timber here, just raw prairie but the land was level and looked good to me. I made the run on just an ordinary three year old colt, but our crowd was in the lead when we reached this country. I made the twenty-two miles in one hour and thirty minutes.

That night we slept on the ground.

Two days after the run, a prairie fire got started which burned to death a woman and two children, five miles west of Enid.

Returning to Hennessey shortly after the run, I saw the wreckage of wagons and several horses dead or with

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legs broken, along the way.

We came back in February; it was still very cold.

In fact we came through a blizzard to get here. At once I built an eight by ten shanty. As I had a little money. This shanty is still here.

I soon secured cows and I sold the milk and butter which gave me money to buy enough ordinary food to eat.

Not long after this, I lost ten head of horses. I found them over in Kansas, near Bluff City straight north of Enid.

After that I started to improve my place. Since then I have had as many as thirty to thirty five head of stock on my place. I have specialized more in wheat farming, hence the rather small number of cattle.

The most wheat I ever raised was about thirty bushels to the acre. This present year of 1937, I raised twenty-three bushels to the acre. On account of the dry weather, almost everyone thought we would have a small crop, however there was no rain to wash off the bloom. Which may explain our good crop.

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There was quite a little game in this country in the early days but I never did much hunting or fishing.

On Cliff Conway's place, now known as Jungle Caves, the outlaws would gather. Later this place was bought by Mr. N. N. Champlin and a dam was built enclosing a large lake.

There was a store at Glenella and a postoffice. This was a mile <sup>west</sup> and a half mile east and four miles south of our claim.

I still have some dishes and furniture that I had at the time of the run.

In 1874, my mother who was then living in Kansas had a watermelon under a tub. She left the house. When she returned, the grasshoppers had gotten under the tub some way and had eaten the melon.