

WALLACE, IVAN . INTERVIEW . #9011

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) October 22, 1937

1. Name Ivan Wallace

2. Post Office Address Snyder, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Postmaster of Snyder.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 12 Year 1893

5. Place of birth Newlin,, Texas.

6. Name of Father Ben Wallace Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father School Teacher

7. Name of Mother Nance Ray. Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother Housekeeper.

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.

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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator.
October 22, 1937.

Interview with Ivan Wallace.

Snyder, Oklahoma

Born June 12, 1893

Father-Ben Wallace

Mother-Nanica May

I arrived in Cordell, Washita County, on February 22, 1905. I arrived on the north bound Frisco, with my mother and sister. My father was with our emigrant car which arrived in Cordell the next afternoon.

Cordell was a town of about twelve or fifteen hundred inhabitants. Most people lived in small houses. Some of these houses were made of native lumber which was very poor.

Cordell was considered a very live town in this new country. There were two or three General Merchandise Stores handling dry goods and groceries, a drug store, two hardware stores, two lumber yards, two wagon yards, a grade school, three churches, four saloons and two banks. There were also two hotels and a rooming house or two. This was the

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extent of the business places which were located on the southwest, south, and southeast sides of the square. The only business building on the north side of the square was the bank.

There were long piles of corn along the railroad track waiting to be shelled and shipped to the market. Also several bales of cotton were piled along the side tracks.

The next year, Cordell received its first gin and the Cordell Ginning Company was organized.

This put us in a great way. We could get our cotton ginned, or our wheat and corn loaded into the cars without having to go to other towns or load it by hand.

About this time Cordell became one of the best alfalfa markets in Oklahoma. Alfalfa and corn called for hogs. and we had plenty of them. I would help feed one to two hundred head of hogs before school and after school.

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At about this time the Cordell Academy was founded over on East Hill. This gave us a higher education, then the High School was instituted and a few years later the Cordell Christian College was founded and Cordell was on the map as a school town. I attended the Academy and later High School. In 1913, the academy failed to open and the Cordell Public School District purchased the Academy building and grounds and moved the High School into the building. During the school year of 1913 and 1914 all this was done. The old building has since been torn down, and the present building been built on the grounds.

I finished High School on May 22, 1914, and taught school in various parts of the county from 1914 to 1920 when I began working for the Bristol Railroad Company. I left Cordell on December 4, 1922.

During the time 1905 to 1922, the population of Cordell had about doubled, as did the population of Washita County.