

WARD, G. D.

INTERVIEW

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

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#10242

WARD, G. D.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) March 14, 1938

1. Name Mr. G. D. Ward

2. Office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 14 Year 1868

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father G. D. Ward Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father Deceased

7. Name of Mother M. E. Altom Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about mother Deceased

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 _____

An Interview with G. D. Ward, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.
By - Maurice R. Anderson, Investigator.
March 14, 1938.

I was born in 1868 in Texas and came to the Indian Territory in 1893, settling on a farm leased from Tip Harris. This land where I settled was located where part of the town of Sulphur is now. At that time there were no stores at Sulphur but there was one log house that the cowboys used once in a while. For putting it in cultivation I was given a five year lease on that farm and all I raised on it. There was no house on the place so I had to live in a tent until I built a one-room log house. That part of the country was more a cattle than a farming country. There were no roads and what few farms there were then were all fenced with rail fences. All I raised in the early days was cotton and corn. There was no gin in that part of the country and I had to haul my cotton to Ardmore to have it ginned. The nearest grist mill was at Mill Creek on Governor Harris' place. That was all I ever know him by, people would refer to him as "Governor Harris". The first cotton I raised I planted by hand. There were very few cotton planters in the country at that

time. The Indians living around where I settled didn't do much farming; about all they planted was corn.

At that time court was held at Ardmore and we had only Federal law then.

People settling in this country in the early days didn't have to buy much; there was plenty of deer and turkey, and in the hills south of where I lived there were plenty of wild horses and hogs and they belonged to anyone who could catch them, and believe me they were hard to catch. Men would come in there and build double log pens with wings and these wings would sometimes reach a quarter of a mile on each side of the pen and they would get after a bunch of horses and run them into this pen, it was a hard days work for three or four men to catch six or seven horses a day. You could buy these horses, after they were caught, but before they were broke to ride, for \$5.00

The town of Sulphur didn't start building until about 1906; however, there were a few stores there before this time. When I settled in this country I rode horseback from where I lived to Pauls Valley and never

saw a wire fence, but the prairies were covered with cattle and horses and it was nothing at all to see a bunch of deer grazing along with a bunch of cattle. I now live in Pauls Valley.