

WEATHERLY, ED A. INTERVIEW #4211

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) May 18, 1937

1. Name Ed. B. Weatherly

2. Post Office Address Enid, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) R. F. D. #1, Enid, 5 miles west.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 10 Year 1854

5. Place of birth Spencer, Indiana, Owen County.

6. Name of Father Jessie Weatherly Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Ancestors from England.

7. Name of Mother Harriet Bowen Place of birth Pennsylvania

Other information about mother _____

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 Seven

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Merrill A. Nelson, Interviewer.
May 18, 1937

Interview with Ed. B. Weatherly,
R. F. B. #1, Enid, Oklahoma.

My coming to Oklahoma was extremely fortunate, as I have not only had a part in building up Enid but have had the privilege of building up a fine place in the country as well, although I had to start the battle of life as an orphan.

I was born in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana, southwest of Indianapolis. As I was left an orphan at seven years of age I had to go out into the world and make a living. When I was fourteen I moved to northwestern Missouri near the Nodaway River.

I had a brother who preceded me to Missouri. I went out and worked by the month. I worked for a man named Clyzer. He was on one side of the Nodaway and I lived on the other. Sometimes the canoe with which I crossed the river was on the opposite side of the river. I would pull off my clothes, swim across, get in the canoe, go back and get my clothes and return to the far

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side. The water was deep and the banks, too, were steep.

I stayed in Missouri three years then I went back to Indiana and having finished High School at Spencer I went to the Illinois State University at Champaign.

I qualified for a certificate to teach and taught first in Indiana, then in Illinois.

In 1883 I went to Harper County, Kansas, and stayed till 1893, then came to the Strip on the day of the opening.

I came to Enid from Hennessey on horseback. The line from which I started was a little northwest of town. We shipped our saddle horses with which we were to make the run from Caldwell.

I settled on the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 22, Range 6. This is now the Weatherly Addition to Enid. Six subdivisions of the quarter were made. My land was only one block from the square west of Enid.

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I had a contest filed against my claim ninety days after the opening. It took me five years to win the suit. As soon as I was entirely clear, I platted the land into additions and sold out each subdivision as platted. I have owned and proved up on four additional farms. I have had the present farm here on the highway, known as the Albert Pike Highway, for thirteen years.

In the early days I was very busy helping to build the town. I assisted in getting the Frisco from Blackwell into Guthrie. I made a subscription of \$500.00. Others gave large amounts. We had a Board of Trade with no dues, no salaries. I never engaged in railroad or townsite business, as others did, especially when the Santa Fe was being built into Guthrie.

Among the plants I helped bring to town or helped get started were a shoe factory, a steel plant, now no

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longer operating, a wire factory and the first fair ground that Enid ever had.

I had two brothers in the run. They were George E. and Alexander C. Weatherly. They hauled goods on the Chisholm Trail.

I met my wife in Harper County, Kansas, and we were married in 1884. My wife was from Iowa. I had a little house built at once and on the 7th of January, 1894, she came to Enid to help me build a home. She pioneered with me from the start and was always a right hand partner to me. Mrs. Weatherly is one of the pre-charter members of the Order of the Eastern Star. We made application for a charter under the dispensation. My daughter tends the flowers about our place and our help, by the Skinner system of sprinkling, produces the finest vegetables, whether the year is a wet or dry one.

We used to go to North Enid to trade. Our market was at Wichita or Oklahoma City but we also shipped some of our products to Sapulpa, or to Fort Worth. At the time

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of the Lawton opening, a crowd of us went there. I bought lots at this Cheyenne-Arapahoe opening for \$1000.00 a piece and improved them with \$600.00 buildings. I received my patents straight from the government.

There were fifteen who made the run together and we elected Andy Morrison who still lives in Enid as Captain.

The fifteen of us scattered as we neared Enid.

Hammer settled just north of the square. He got the southeast quarter of Section 7. Thomas got a section just one half mile east or so of the square as a good area. The southwest quarter of Section 7, the southeast quarter of Section 7 and the southwest quarter of Section 8 were reserved as an original townsite. This was between downtown and the University.

Doffat secured the one half section on the south side of Main Street. The townsite was east of the Doffat farm.

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Taxes were light when I was in office sometime later, but at the time of the run there were no real estate taxes.

In 1910 I was elected County Treasurer. I was re-elected two years later. I served four and a half years for the simple reason that they changed the fiscal year while I was in office. When I completed my work I checked out thirteen cents long. The county offered to give me this surplus but I refused it.

I was on the school board from the first. I helped build the first school built in Enid. I was President of the Board of Education for two years. Mr. Locke was one of the early superintendents. I let him live in my house the first few months until my family came. I was on the school board when they built the first brick house in the three hundred block on East Cherokee. This building was built before 1901 and in that year there was a fire so we rebuilt the south side. They were holding board meetings where the Stevenson

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bank is now. I had them move over to this school, and save \$20.00 per month.

I knew two United States Deputy Marshals; their names were Bill Fossett and Harry Thompson.