

WICKMILLER, C. P.

INTERVIEW

#9279

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) November 15, 1937

1. Name G. P. Wickmiller

2. Post Office Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1858

5. Place of birth Prussia

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 3

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Louise S. Barnes  
Investigator  
11-15-37

( Told by C. P. Wickmiller, Kingfisher, Okla.)

Mr. C.P. Wickmiller , who was born in Prussia in 1858 and has lived since April 22, 1889 in Kingfisher, has a great hobby of collecting relics and among them he has the hand-cuffs which they put on Charlie Bryant as they were going to take him to the penitentiary at Wichita. Mr. Wickmiller told the following story about Charlie Bryant's history; Charlie Bryant was an old timer in Oklahoma and stayed in the Cherokee Strip in a camp. He was a very good shot and practiced pulling his six shooter to see how quick he was with his gun; he was considered one of best shots in camp but also one of these slow, easy-going fellows with no bad habits. Sometimes he would leave camp for a month or so but when he returned there was very little he would say concerning his absence. The last trip he made was when the Santa Fe train was held up at Red Rock although no one thought of <sup>his</sup> being connected with the robbery.

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Bryant was taken ill after he returned and was sent to Hennessey and put under the doctor's care. He was not bedfast for a while but later when he did become bedfast he stayed at the Rhodes Hotel.

Ed Short was a United States Marshal at the time of opening of Oklahoma. He saw Bryant not long before he became ill. One day when Short was with Miller he was reading the descriptions of some of the men they were looking for and ran across the description of Bryant. He read the description, then remarked, "I am going to Hennessey and arrest that man Bryant". Miller told Short to be careful because Bryant was a very good shot.

Ed Short went to the Rhodes Hotel, going to Bryant's room and as he opened the door, he leveled his six-shooter on Bryant and ordered him to throw up his hands, not giving him a chance to get his gun. Ed Short then took Bryant's gun and told him why he had come. He told Bryant that he was wanted for the Santa Fe holdup and that they were going to take him

to the Federal jail at Wichita.

They left on the Rock Island train for Wichita and Short guarded Bryant carefully until they arrived at Waukomis then he put him in the baggage car and gave the baggageman a gun and ask him to guard Bryant while he watched the depot because he was afraid some of Bryant's friends might cause him trouble when they were at Waukomis. The baggageman was busy and gave little thought to Bryant so at the first opportunity Bryant grabbed the baggageman's gun and went to the car door with his hands hand-cuffed and shot Short and Short whirled and shot Bryant twice.

The passengers carried them into the car and they both died on the train.