Form A-(S-149) 187

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

WILSON, JOHN. INTERVIEW. 4897

Field Worker's name Jimmie Birdwell

This report made on (date) July 16, 1937

1. Name John Wilson
2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 2416 West Main Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 18 Year 1875
5. Place of birth Nebraska

6. Name of Father John Wilson Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father

7. Name of Mother Annie Bishop Place of birth Nebraska

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

WILSON, JOHN. INTERVIEW 489[illegible]

Jimmie Birdwell
Interviewer
July 16, 19[illegible]

Interviewee: John Wilson
2416 We[illegible] Street
Oklaho[illegible]

Mr. Wilson came into Creek County where the present town of Slick now is in 19[illegible]. This is a very rough hill country with a great deal of timber, and a mile east of Slick is a cave that was used by outlaws; this cave used to run back under the hill about fifty feet but the roof has broken down until it is only a few feet to the back now.

This country was [illegible] garden spot along the little streams and on Big and Little Deep Fork Creeks and the land along these bottoms would raise almost anything.

Game was plentiful and hunting was good. Quite a bit of money could be made by trapping opossum, skunk, coon and some mink. Almost all trading was done at Okmulgee about twenty-five miles southeast of Slick.

In 1895 Mr. Wilson's father moved to Tulsa and they crossed the Arkansas River on a ferry where the highway goes from Red Fork. They had to wait four days for the Arkansas River to go down so that they could cross on the ferry.

Tulsa was only a tent town at this time; there were very few houses and there were many Indians in and around Tulsa. These Indians were Osages and Creeks. They would stay in town as long as they wanted to, drinking and having a good time and then they would want to fight. The "law" would get the tougher ones and lock them up and some times the Indians would get hold of a gun. The Indians would not try to hurt the white people but would try to shoot all the windows out of the houses.

Mr. Wilson helped to lay the first gas line into Tulsa in 1906. Mr. Wilson says that the first oil well in Oklahoma was discovered in Sapulpa near the present site of the St. James Hotel.