

SMITH, F. W.

COLLECTION--INDIAN RELICS

8506

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## HISTORICAL COLLECTION FORM

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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## Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Zaidee B. BlandThis report made on (date) Sept. 14 19371. Name of person owning collection F. W. SmithAddress 604 N. Hudson St. Altus, Oklahoma.2. Name (if any) of collection Indian collection3. This collection contains the following types of material Tomahawk, scalp of human hair, tom tom beater, eagle and bear claws, medicine bag, horse hair rope, beaded moccasins.4. Amount of material Two dozen different articles.5. Material deals with Indian life as well as pioneer life.6. Approximate period (dates) material is for Remembrance of early life of collector among the Indians.7. Locations of the collection (where it is kept) In a locked cabinet in the room of owner.8. Condition of storage place PerfectCondition of collection Splendid state of preservation.9. What does the owner intend to do with this collection Pass ownership on to children and grandchildren.Would he be willing to part with it? Not during present owner's life.10. Any other information about the collection, including its history This collection was gathered mostly while the present owner was clerk at an Indian trading post, Gray Horse.

11. Does this owner know other people who have or might have collections.

Give names & addresses He knew but could not remember; would try later to get name and address.

NOTE: In the event that any of the above questions cannot be answered fully in the space allowed, attach blank sheets firmly, and give all available information. Referring to question by number.

Number of sheets attached 3

J. Stanley Clark Supervisor,  
Indian Pioneer History S-149  
Zaidee B. Bland, Interviewer,  
September 14, 1937.  
Altus, Oklahoma.

List of Indian and Pioneer relics  
owned by F. W. Smith, 604 N. Hudson St.  
Altus, Oklahoma.

- 1 Indian tomahawk, steel
- 6 bear and eagle claws
- 1 beaded medicine bag
- 1 pair of beaded moccasins
- 1 papoose's beaded moccasin
- 1 tomtom beater
- 1 scalp of human hair
- 1 bow and several arrows
- 1 powder horn 75 or 100 years old
- 1 beaded purse
- 1 hunting knife- Doe foot handle
- 1 beaded scabbard for knife
- 1 horse hair rope
- 1 spur steel, no broken rowel
- 1 beaded hat band
- 1 beaded badge
- 1 flint arrow head

The beaded articles are in a good state of preservation, and are the usual style found in such collections. The bear and eagle claws are highly polished, and perfect. The tomahawk has no handle in it but is not bent or mutilated in any way.

The scalp of human hair is long and very black. The skin that holds the hair is dried and drawn until it is no larger than a silver dollar, but still preserves its circular outline. The hair is coarse and might have been either from the head of an Indian or white lady. I would

judge from a white lady as the Indian who sold the scalp to Mr. Smith had in his collection a scalp of blond hair which he valued so highly that Mr. Smith bought the Black one much cheaper.

The tom tom beater is evidently made from the tail of a cow or steer, cut around near where it joins the body of the animal and skinned back. It then was filled with sand or something, and the larger end filled with lead and it was then sewed up. The small end which was held in the hand has the natural long hair and the knobby end that was used to strike the drum might have been made with a rock but seems too heavy for a rock to me.

The powder horn is made from a long horn; must have been from the head of a wild animal or what was known in later years as a Texas Longhorn.

The scalping knife looks rather primitive, but looks as if it might have been used a lot as the hair from the doe's foot handle is worn almost smooth.

The medicine bag still bears a faint incense of herbs. There are any number of curious rock paper weights, and old articles that neither Mrs. Smith nor I could name.

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The bow and arrows are very much the worse for the wear but probably by the younger generation of white children playing Indian, rather than by the Indians.