

CAWOOD, ARTHUR.

INTERVIEW

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37

397

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

38

398

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9898.

Field Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan.

This report made on (date) January 18, 1938. 1938

1. Name Arthur Cawood.

2. Post Office Address Tonkawa, Oklahoma, Grant County.

3. Residence address (or location) Eleven miles from Tonkawa.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 3 Year 1871.

5. Place of birth Milford, Dickinson County, Iowa.

6. Name of Father Calvin Leandrew Cawood. Place of birth Iowa.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Clirinda Czie. Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about mother School teacher.

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 7.

CAWOOD, ARTHUR.

INTERVIEW.

9898. 399

Elizabeth L. Duncan,
Investigator,
January 18, 1938.

An Interview With Arthur Cawood,
Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

Arthur Cawood was born to Calvin Leandrew and
Clirinda Cazie Cawood, October 3, 1871, close to the
little town of Milford, Dickinson County, Iowa. He
lived there until he was five years old when his parents
moved to Gauda Springs, Kansas; there he spent his chil-
hood.

He received little schooling as he had to help his
father haul wood and do the farm work. On one of the
occasions when he and his father were down in the Strip
to get a load of wood, his father told him to keep an eye
on the horses while he scouted around to see if he could
locate some larger trees he could cut down to haul back
home to build a small build^{ing}/back home. While/^{his} father was
gone Arthur thought he would look around some, too, so he
set out to see if he could see anything of interest. All
of a sudden he heard such a noise in a small clump of bushes.
He had heard so much about Indians that he did not look to
assure himself whether it was an Indian, his feet seemed

to have had wings attached as he ran. He ran for some distance, then when he did not hear a yell or anything he slowed his pace to look around. To his surprise he had startled a deer. It was just as much scared as he.

When Arthur was twenty years old his father moved to Logan County, in the Iowa Reservation, close to Iowa Village, September 22, 1891, in the southeast corner; the farm being the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 22, Township 15, Range 1.

In 1892 Arthur and one of the Indians that he chummed around with went back up to Geuda Springs to bring down twenty head of cattle, as the Cawoods could not bring them down with them when they moved. On their way back it began to rain causing all streams to fill with water. The boys were not going to let that keep them from crossing, so every stream and river they came to they swam the cattle across. The boys were on the way eight days; they did not lose a cow.

The rumor was that Hoke Smith had set a definite date in which the Strip was to be opened. Arthur told his father that he was going to make the run, for he wanted a home.

In the months that followed the Government gave the cattlemen notice to move their cattle and belongings as the Strip was to be opened to homesteaders. Many of the cattlemen defied the Government to put them out, so the soldiers were called on to enforce the law.

A month before the opening Arthur came back to Gouda Springs to his sister's to talk to his brother-in-law, Lucas E. Snyder, who was a cowpuncher on the ranches in the Strip. He knew where some of the best land was located. Arthur and Lucas E. Snyder both came down on horseback. Arthur's horse was a grey mare weighing 900 pounds.

The boys registered at Hunnewell, then went west along the line. On the 16th of September 1893, the signal was given at 12 o'clock noon. The boys had to double back quite a few times as some of the creek banks were pretty steep for a horse to go down.

At two o'clock Arthur staked the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2, Township 25, Range 3. The way he announced to the others that he had staked was with a short jacket which he wore over a sweater. He took the jacket off and put it over a

small oak tree which stands today. He also had a stake which bore his name.

He and his brother-in-law stayed on their claims until about sundown, then they went over to a small creek which was called Bear Creek to cook their supper and joined a few others, staying all night. The following morning the boys had witnesses to their claim. Lucus took the train for Enid, while Arthur started for Ceuda Springs to take the horses back to his brother-in-law's father.

That night he camped east of South Haven, his bed was a straw stack. Monday at noon he arrived at Ceuda Springs. In the afternoon he took a train for Enid to file. The boys were in line for four days before they ever filed.

The boys returned to their homesteads to start building their houses. The first thing Arthur did was to dig a well on his brother-in-law's place so both could use it. The next step was to cut enough logs to build a house. It was the 15th of October when the log house was completed. The trees came from Arthur's claim.

CAWOOD, ARTHUR.

INTERVIEW.

9898. 403

-5-

That winter Arthur went back to Logan County to spend the winter. Some who stayed in the Strip were in a very destitute condition; many of the people had some one in different states helping them.

In the spring Arthur came back to his homestead. He bought a sod plow, but before he bought a plow he borrowed one from his neighbor and broke out forty acres. He planted some corn, it was planted with a jabber planter, but it did not make as the ground was dry.

The winter of '94 Arthur went down into Logan County. He hauled feed back from Logan to the Strip. 1894 was a winter that Arthur never forgot. He and J. C. Burns hauled together. When they were on their way back, between Guthrie and Iowaville, it was so cold that Burns wanted to climb up on the wagon; when he did he fell asleep. seeing Arthur this made him get down and walk. If he had not Burns would have frozen to death.

1894 was also the first time they held school down in the Strip. It was held in half dugout and half a lumber shed with two windows and a door to the east. The first teacher was Dora Begle. The school was held on

CAWOOD, ARTHUR.

INTERVIEW.

9898. 404

-6-

Bill Chaney's place. In the spring of '95 Arthur brought with him a half iron bed, a tick filled with straw for a mattress, a small topsy stove, two chairs, a home made table and some boxes. He also brought a new cultivator.

A new school was built the spring of '95, 30 x 40 feet, which still stands. Church was also held there until a church house was built. The years that followed Arthur made improvements and broke out more acreage.

In 1898 Arthur decided to rebuild. He hauled some of his lumber ^{from} east of Ponca City and then there was a place located thirty-eight miles from there he also hauled his lumber from.

He also planted fifty acres of corn that spring, too, and the corn made fifty bushels to the acre. Arthur hauled the corn to Gauda Springs already shelled by a hand sheller, and sold it for 15¢ a bushel.

In 1899, Arthur married Eva Bunch. In the years following his marriage, chickens, cows, and hogs were added to the stock on his farm.

In 1905 Arthur received his United States Government patent. In 1915 he sold his homestead and moved to Logan County and lived there six years, then settled in Kay County and lived there six years. He then moved again into Grant County and did farming for one year, then bought the place where he lives now.

The place Arthur homesteaded was part of George Miller's range. The way the cowboys knew when they were close to George Miller's range was by a large pile of sand which was the highest place in any direction. It was called the Bald Sand Hill but time and winds have well hidden the place. If any of the cowboys were lost and they could get to that sand-hill they knew then their directions.

The first funeral that Arthur witnessed was when the old Salt Fork was up. They had to take the casket across on a raft to the other side to the cemetery. The men swam across with the raft.

In 1900 there was a real honest-to-goodness crop failure.