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Journey to Oklahoma
Houses--Cherokee Nation
Lumber--Choctaw Nation

Story as given by Gilbert Benson (Ben) Cobb.

I was born in Carthage, Illinois on June 11, 1889.

My father Alexander Clingan Cobb was born in Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee on Sept. 15, 1864. He is living now and is a Professor in the A. and M. College at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

My father married, my mother, Lucy VanZile, in Carthage, Illinois on June 29, 1888. They later moved to Wagoner I.T. She died March 31, 1893.

My grandfather was Joseph Benson Cobb (Second son of Sylvester Y. Cobb) born in Knox County, Tennessee, July 26, 1828 and died in Wagoner, I.T. March 22, 1896. He had a Masonic Funeral. He was in the Civil War, first on the South and then on the Northern side.

My grandmother was Evaline Clingan, daughter of Jack Clingan, of Bradley County, Tennessee. The Clingans were Cherokee Indians.

Grandfather and grandmother first lived in Blount County, Tennessee, then in Bradley, Tennessee. Then they moved to Indian Territory in the spring of 1870. They rode to Baxter Springs on the railroad and then finished the journey by wagon over the old trail to a place on the Grand River close to Wagoner, Oklahoma. They settled two miles south and two miles east of Wagoner (On the place that I am now living) in 1871. When they first settled here (On account of a spring which was an old watering place) there was an old

log house, without any chimney or any floor. He put a floor in the cabin and built a chimney. (The chimney is still standing and in good repair, however, the old cabin is gone and there is another built in place of it.) Grandfather also built a spring house of sandstone. (It is still standing, but the roof is gone and it is in bad state of repair. The date that it was built is inscribed on the wall "July 14, 1875". Also there is another inscription on the wall "Bert Helen, Surveyor 7-19-96". It was put there by the surveyors when the land in this country was sectionized by the United States Government). I married Annette Sullivan on Dec. 25, 1910. She was born Sept. 9, 1891. One time in 1911 when she was down by the spring washing, an old indian came by and told her he had camped there and used water out of that spring in 1836. There is an old rock wall that my grandfather built when he first settled here. It was all around the stock lot. Part of it is still standing down by the spring and old house.

My grandfather built the house I am now living in, in 1882. (The house Ben Cobb now lives in, is of frame structure. The finished lumber in the house was shipped from Hanibal, Mo., and the other lumber was shipped from Stringtown, I.T. The house has fourteen rooms and is in fair condition. With some repairing and some paint it would be in excellent shape. The house is built on top of a rise and is about one hundred yards from the old house and spring.)