

CURLEON, SAMUEL.

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Nannie Lee Burns. Investigator _____

This report made on (date) March 14, _____ 1938

1. Name Samuel Curleon

2. Post Office Address Cardin, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

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 _____.

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Nannie Lee Burns.
Investigator,
March 14, 1933

An Interview with Samuel Curleon,
Cardin, Ala.

My father was William Curleon, born in North Carolina of French parentage. My mother was Jane Curleon, nee Walls, also of North Carolina. They were married in the state of Carolina and when I was two years old they moved to Illinois. I was born in Tennessee October 16, 1849.

The family made the trip in the family carry-all and the wagons carried the belongings of the family. The earliest I can remember, of our experience of moving, was one of very cold weather. The weather was so bitterly cold that they had to bring the sheep in the house.

I grew up in Illinois and attended school, and as I grew older helped with the home work as well as doing the spinning of the thread for the cloth that was to be made into our clothes, blankets and linen. I was the oldest of eleven children.

Stores or trading posts were scarce and far between in those days and we raised everything that was possible to raise, and made as many of the things that we used as possible, from

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our furniture to the implements that we used on the farm. The neighborhood carpenter made the coffins and the women folks the clothes.

Doctors were scarce and each family had their own remedies and often gathered plants, roots, etc., during the summer months and preserved them for winter use.

I was past twenty-one when I came to Missouri, wanting to get ahead and thinking that a new country was the place to start. I settled in near Oberly, working first as a hired hand and here on October 20, 1879, I married Eliza Jane Smith. We continued to live here and had settled down and had a farm of our own when my wife's health began to fail, so I rented my farm out and taking the wife and the oldest daughter in a wagon began to travel for my wife's health. After a while we reached Fayetteville, Arkansas, and we lived there for nearly a year. I was ^acarpenter by trade and I worked at my trade while there.

At this time many persons were talking about the run to be made in Oklahoma for land and not being settled permanently we decided to go there. So I reloaded my wagon, but this time, in addition to my family, I carried a new load, and this was a pig weighing about seventy-five or eighty pounds which

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traveled in a crate that I had made which was fastened to the rear of the wagon. We would turn this pig loose when we were camped on the way. It would stay around the camp until we were ready to start, then I would put it in the crate again.

The morning that the run was to be made we were not far from the line of Oklahoma City, and as I was ^{not} desirous of getting a claim I followed the runners with my family in our wagon and that night we camped at the present site of Oklahoma City. There were people of all descriptions there and in every kind of outfit.

We were not familiar with the Indians and the lady who lived in the tent next to ours was visiting us when a party of Indians came to our tent and wasn't the little woman frightened! There was no danger as they were peaceable and friendly and were ^{only} curious to see what was happening.

Of course all of the people did not come to this place with the run as the "Sooners" were already there.

I started to work at once on the first building that was built. It was a frame building and was a school house. I was paid as a carpenter at the rate of \$1.00 per day for my work. It was a feverish sight to see all the activity all about you, to see the tents, wagons and the rude wooden structures spring-^{only}ing up all about you where the day before had been ^{tall} green grass.

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Merchants expecting a big business had brought in and continued to bring in great supplies of groceries, etc., expecting to get big prices for their goods but the people who were there had little or no money to spend and I have seen potatoes lying in carload ^{lots} along the right-of-way, rotting. What they sold, they could only get twenty-five cents per bushel. We stayed here about a month and then decided to move on and when we were getting ready to move, I had an offer for my pig which we had brought with us, the first one to be brought to Oklahoma City, and which had a part of the time foraged around the wagon. So when we started again, it was the wife, daughter and myself without the livestock.

My wife's health had improved and so we returned to our Missouri home where we continued to live until thirty years ago when we sold the home and went to Jasper County and purchased a home near Alba where I continued to farm. I have always been a corn and hog farmer.

Both of us were growing old and at the request of our daughters who were living in Cardin, we disposed of our holdings and sixteen years ago we came to Cardin to live and be near them and here on November 6, 1924, my wife died and since then I make my home with my daughters.