

DAME, ALFRED W.

INTERVIEW

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

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DAME, ALFRED W. INTERVIEW 4636

Field Worker's name Ethel E. Palmer

This report made on (date) June 18, 1937 1937

1. Name Mr. Alfred W. Dame

2. Post Office Address Leedey, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 21 Year 1871

5. Place of birth McClain County, Kentucky

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 _____.

Ethel E. Palmer
Interviewer
June 18, 1937

Interview with
Mr. Alfred W. Dame
Leedey, Oklahoma.

I was born in McClain County, Kentucky, near Sacramento, November 21, 1871. I came to Oklahoma in 1898, from Kentucky. I came as far as El Reno on a train. At that time they were building a bridge at Bridgeport. I filed on land in Day County, now Roger Mills. I had a close friend who was here at that time and that is how I came to settle here.

I began teaching school November 7, 1898. This was Croton Creek School, a cedar log building. I taught five months for \$40.00 a month. I couldn't cash my warrants, but could trade them and get money that way. There were no school districts then and no specified time for school. I ended one school on Friday and started another on Monday. I taught twelve months and three weeks in thirteen months. I had a big bunch of cowboys and they were as large as I was. I surely had a time with them, they would steal my horses and do me anyway, and, too,

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there weren't any two books alike. One bunch of kids would come from one state and have their books, another family would come from another state and, of course, they were different. I have taught school at noon hour and until five o'clock in the evening. Sometimes I would board when I was teaching school. That cost me about \$6.00 a month for room and board. I taught school twenty nine years.

When I came to Day County there were seventy-seven voters in the entire county and they were all cowmen. There were no law enforcements then and people paid very little taxes.

When I came to Day County, people lived in tents, dugouts and just any place they could find. People who came to this country didn't have one cent of money. They would put all they had to their name in a wagon. All we had for harness was chain harness. Lots of people starved out and had to leave.

At this time there were around two hundred Indians at Hammon and they really loved milk. They just stole the

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cowmen's cows, took them over to their yard and tied them up. There was an Indian Agency at Hammon. Had it not been for this the Indians would all have starved to death. Lots of them did leave.

We had church in our school building and in our homes, every fifth Sunday we would have a big meeting and would sing all day. There would be a big crowd of people there.