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

4794

Field Worker's name Robert L. Palmer

This report made on (date) May 22, 1937

1. Name William Aune Dyer

2. Post Office Address Leedey, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month --- Day --- Year 1866

5. Place of birth Union Parish, Louisiana

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 3.

I was born in Union Parish, Louisiana, in 1866. I filed on land in the northwestern part of Oklahoma, Section 14, Township 16, Range 19. The reason I settled in this particular place, I wanted bottom land and as close to the river as I could be. I knew from the water that ran in the river, the vapor would rise thus giving the crops more moisture and I find this to be a fact.

My brother and I and two friends made the run in a covered wagon, April 19, 1892. We started this side of Anadarko, on Deer Creek. When the guns were fired every one started; some were on horses, some in buggies, and some were in covered wagons. Many of them started in a rush but we took our time to begin with and passed a number of people on the way.

Our home was under a big tree (this tree still stands). We had no stove to do our cooking on and we would build us a fire under the tree, take our skillet and put it on the fire, place our bread in the skillet and put the lid on, then build a fire on the lid. This cooked the bread on both sides. I remember one day it began raining and oh! how it did rain! All the protection we had was to crawl under the bed; about the time we all got under the bed, a

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pig came and got under the bed with us. As soon as possible we built a half dugout.

We had lots of fish in those days; I have helped get fish by the tub full. We also had wild turkey and a few deer. We would go to Woodward to buy our food (about fifty miles) and also to Taloga. I walked there once and carried a twenty-five sack of flour home and a small sack of sugar; this was about thirty miles. Both of these places are still in existence and are much improved.

We used to raise a lot of watermelons and would go over to the Quartermaster and sell them. We would give the Indians one to get them to dance for us and they could really dance, and would wear bells.

I saw two old dead cows in the bog once. There were a bunch of Indians who had skinned the cows and were eating them; those tiny Indians were bloody all over.