

MINTON, W. H.

INTERVIEW

9586

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BIOGRAPHIC FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Initial-Place of Birth-~~Text for Oklahoma~~

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Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) December 29, 1937

1. Name Mr. W. H. Minton

2. Post office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 22 Year 1888

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father W. J. Minton Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father deceased

7. Name of Mother Sarah Beck Place of birth Ohio

Other information about mother deceased.

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.

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Maurice R. Anderson,
Interviewer.
December 29, 1957.

Interview with Mr. W. H. Minton.
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma
Born May 22, 1882.
Father-W. J. Minton.
Mother-Sarah Beck.

I was born in 1882, in Illinois. I came to the Indian Territory with my father and mother in 1887. We came from Texas in a covered wagon and my father took a lease four miles south of Elmore City in the Chickasaw Nation. There was one store there owned by J. W. Black. My father first went to farming; there were no fences in those days and that part of the country was covered with white faced cattle and I have heard my father say that his hardest work was keeping the cattle off his crop. There was no gin at Elmore and Father would have to haul cotton to a little place called Foster about fifteen miles on west from the place where we lived.

My father did his trading at Wynnewood, as that was one of the leading trading places on this side of Red River. Pauls Valley at that time was a trading point but Wynnewood was the nearest trading point to the place where we lived. My

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father farmed a few years and then built a store where we lived and put in a stock of groceries. As we lived on a much traveled road, coming from Wynnewood and going on West, several wagons would pass by our place every day and most of them were people coming from the East and settling in this country and they would all stop at our place as we had the only well of water in that part of the country. It was a dug well walled up with rocks; my father dug this well himself and my mother pulled the dirt out with a rope and bucket. This well stood about twenty feet in water and we lived there until 1900 and this well never did fail and that was what caused my father to put up a store there. One day a man camped there and told my father that that would be a fine place for a store.

After Elmore City began to build up and the country was being settled up fast, in 1895, my father sold the stock of groceries he had left to J. T. Gibson who put in a shack at Elmore and a few years later he started the bank.

We lived where we first settled until 1897 at which time my father took a lease on a better farm between Elmore and Pauls Valley and we lived on this farm until 1900 and

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at that time we moved to Arkansas where I lived until after the Indian Terzitory became a part of the state of Oklahoma in 1907. I now live in Pauls Valley where I have lived for a number of years.