



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

452

DYER, W. B.

INTERVIEW.

4618.

Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse.

This report made on (date) June 25, 1937. 193  

1. Name W. B. Dyer.

2. Post Office Address Duncan, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1858.

5. Place of birth Denton County, Texas.

(Male - White).

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 2.

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Warren D. Morse,  
Field Worker,  
June 25, 1937.

An Interview With W. B. Dyer,  
Duncan, Oklahoma.

I was born in Denton County, Texas, and came to what is now Oklahoma in 1890. I farmed near Duncan; broke out a lot of this sod land around Mud Creek. It was like a wilderness where the grass roots and grubs were thick. Farming was hard because we had nothing to do it with. I also farmed out close to the Duncan store, two miles east of what is now the city of Duncan. After the railroad came down through here and the Duncan store was moved to the railroad, I moved to the town. Our settlement grew from one store to many in just no time.

There was a livery stable just north of the Federal Building. We organized a City Council, had city officers and started marking off lots. Duncan was a trading center for miles around and Comanche Indians from their reservation could be seen on streets here often. They would gather round a place and could be seen sitting flat down on the walks, never on stools or boxes. They had their hair down their backs in braids tied with a bright piece of cloth of

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some kind. The women carried their young on their backs, too.

Our first bank was in a shanty located just about where the city hall is. The first telephone extended from the bank to the depot. The first stone building was the one just across the alley from the Wade Hotel. This was a store. Mr. Parmlee established the first hotel where the Wade Hotel is now. Another hotel, the Jones Hotel, was where Humphies' Sandwich Shop is now.

Early-day merchants were Mart Armstrong, R.J. Allen, J. A. Towler & Company, J.N. Duncan, R. L. March. There were two or three early-day doctors, Dr. Howell, Dr. Conger, and Dr. Long. Frank Fuqua and W. H. Breedlove built the first gin in Duncan on Sixth & Main Streets.