

DU BOISE, E. L.

INTERVIEW

#9504

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

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Worker's name Ida B. Lankford,

Report made on (date) December 22, 1937

E. L. Du Boise.

Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) Northwest of Cordell.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 1 Year 1887

Place of birth Mississippi

Name of Father J. W. C. Du Boise Place of birth Mississippi.

Occupation information about father Carpenter and blacksmith.

Name of Mother Jessie Hill Place of birth Mississippi

Occupation information about mother Housewife.

For complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and  
history of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects  
and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to

Number of sheets attached Two.

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Ida B. Lankford,  
Investigator.  
December 22, 1937.

Interview with E. L. Du Boise,  
Cordell, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma in 1900 and homesteaded on a place in Greer County, eighteen miles west of Altus as it is now called but it was Lager in those days.

We built a half dugout; hauled the lumber from Quanah, Texas, in a wagon, which was thirty miles distant. We lived in this dugout for three years. In those days the prairie dogs and fleas were thick and we also had to be on the watch for rattlesnakes as there were almost as many snakes as there were fleas. We killed one of those snakes which was so large he couldn't crawl into a dog hole. He had fourteen rattles.

When Oklahoma was being settled we couldn't raise a crop on account of the cattle. If we raised any crop we had to guard the cattle because they would just go right through the fence. We hauled our posts thirty-six miles to fence our place. We cut the posts from a mountain. We lived on this place five years and proved our

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claim and got a deed to the one hundred and sixty acres.

While we were living out on our claim we cooked on a two-eyed bachelor stove. There were times when we couldn't get coal, so we burned cotton seed and cow chips for fuel. We used "gyp" water. I remember one bachelor who lived a few miles from us who told about trying to cook beans in this "gyp" water. He said he put them on early one morning to cook and he cooked them all day and they still were not done. When he put some out on his plate they rattled like rocks.

There were a few wells around that people would haul water from; this was called soft water but it would seem like very hard water to most people now. Some of the wells were several miles away but folks would haul well water to wash and cook in; although they still had to use lye to "break" it. Lots of folks had cisterns and they would haul this well water and put it in the cisterns.