

MOLEN, J. W.

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) September 1 1937

Name J. W. Molen

Post Office Address Cordell

Residence address (or location) South Market

DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 10 Year 1861

Place of birth Faubush, Kentucky

Name of Father J. F. Molen Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Farmer

Name of Mother Sarah Comer Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother Housekeeper

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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I was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky, February 10, 1861, and moved to Williamson County, Texas, November 16, 1882. I was married to Sarah E. Compton, of Pulaski County, Kentucky, December 15, 1885. We moved to Greenville, Texas, August, 1889. From there we moved to Clinton, Texas.

At Clinton, Texas, I took pneumonia fever, was in bed ninety-one days. The doctors at Clinton told me to go to a different climate, so I decided to come to Oklahoma. We arrived at Cloud Chief, Oklahoma, December 15, 1898. I gained my health back in this fine country.

On January 3, 1899, we had the worst blizzard that ever came to Oklahoma. The morning of the blizzard our home burned, leaving us nothing. We did not know anyone except Joe Dent and family. They kept us a month until the men could freight lumber from Weatherford to build our store and we lived in the back of the building.

We sold groceries and drygoods, and built up a good trade. Here are some of the prices that were paid for groceries: Potatoes, 20 cents a bushel; flour, 50 cents for fifty pounds; calico, 5 cents a yard (we used ten yards to a dress so our dresses would cost fifty cents); shoes cost \$1.50, we would get one pair a year. Cows,

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\$13.00 a head; horses, \$25.00 a head; chickens, \$2.50 per dozen; hogs, 3 cents a pound, dressed; wheat, 90 cents a bushel and cotton 4 cents a pound.

Cloud Chief was the county seat when the country was first settled. We stayed at Cloud Chief until the county seat was moved to Cordell, then we moved to Cordell and have been here ever since. We are still in business.

There were two saloons at Cloud Chief and when we moved to Cordell, there were nine. We have had lots of drinking and kidding in the old times.

We have seen them tear the old wooden frame buildings down and put brick buildings in their places.

While we had many hardships to overcome, I feel proud that I was one to help develop this great state.