

MOFFET, DAVE.

INTERVIEW

9572

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Jimmie Birdwell

This report made on (date) December 21 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Dave Moffet
Address 1214 Southwest 11th, Oklahoma City.
This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,
If Indian, give tribe _____
2. Origin and history of legend or story _____
A man who worked with cattle.
3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Jimmie Birdwell,
Interviewer,
December 31, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Dave Moffet,
1214 Southwest 11th, Oklahoma City,

When I came into what became Oklahoma I went to the west side of the state. I came from Nebraska, drove down in a wagon with my wife and our four children. The oldest child, a boy, was sixteen in 1880. I squatted just over on the south side of the Antelope Hills. I did not own any land or rent any, I just stopped right at the foot of the mountain and built a shack. I had very little money but we built a pole and mud house and in the spring following we planted a large patch of corn and a big garden. The boy farmed and tended the garden while I hunted and worked. There were several ranches out there around me and I got some work from them. I squatted there several years; in the summer there was always somebody putting up wild grass for hay and too, there was lots of range riding and hunting was good in the Antelope Hills in the winter months. I kept our table supplied with meat.

There were some pretty tough men out in that country;

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there was a gang of five men who came up out of what is now New Mexico, who really cleaned out everything that got in their way. There were several small cattlemen who lost every cow they had to this gang. They would ride up on the pasture of some small ranchman and take everything and if the owner showed up they were ready to fight.

My children did not go to school until I left there and went to Hennessey, as there was not any school close to us, neither was there a church. The family closest to me when I went out there was eight miles away but awhile later some folks moved to a place within three miles of us and the children would go stay all night with each other. My boy would go and stay all night with the other boy and a girl from that family would come and stay all night with my girl and the next Saturday night they would swap around.