

INDEX CARDS

Journey to Oklahoma
Indian scares
Openings--Old Oklahoma
Kingfisher
Openings--Cherokee Strip
Pioneer life--Oklahoma Territory
Game--Oklahoma Territory

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

Field Worker's name Merrill A. Nelson

This report made on (date) May 17 1937

1. Name W. S. Mount

2. Post Office Address Route 1, Enid, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 3 mi. S. 8 mi. East of Enid.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 10 Year 1864

5. Place of birth Ohio, 100 mi. east of Cincinnati.

Lawrence County.

6. Name of Father William Mount Place of Birth Pennsylvania

Other information about father Died in the war.

7. Name of Mother Jane Rowe Place of birth Pennsylvania

Other information about mother Farm people.

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 .

STORY OF W. S. MOUNT

I was an '89 er. I left Ohio and came to Colorado in 1887. Two years were spent in the city of Trinidad of that state. My people were farmers in Ohio, but I found farming out west much different which was one reason I lived in town while in Colorado.

We drove through from Colorado to Old Oklahoma in a wagon. We were twenty-one days on the road. We came straight through the southern tier of counties in Kansas. From Kiowa we came down to Kingfisher. A cousin, Mr. John Dillon, who lives 6 miles north of Geary on the Canadian River, was with me. Another fellow, Barrickman, also came with us. We called him "Lucky John."

When we got to Cleo Springs, near the Cimarron, other outfits urged us to get together, lest the Indians kill us, but we were not afraid and did not join with the group who so advised us.

We were in Kingfisher on the 22nd of April, 1889.

We got to the border 1 mile west of Kingfisher. I was about 23. We made the run in a wagon. Some offered to take us into the country to be opened up the night before, but we made the run on the square and have stayed

that way ever since.

The day of the run we went east and south of Kingfisher. Kingfisher was on that day a city of tents. I did not like the lay of land over that way so did not stake a claim.

I made the Sac and Fox run in September, 1891, and the Cheyenne-Arapaho run in April, 1892. During the Sac and Fox run, I went over to Tecumseh, then the county seat of Pottawatomie County, instead of the present Shawnee, and broke down two or three times and had quite a time. Fifteen or twenty of us grouped together. There was a man on horseback right in front of me. His horse stepped in a hole and fell. He was thrown and killed.

I later made the Kickapoo run, also.

Between my first run in '89 and the opening of the Cherokee Strip, we had no railroad to Kingfisher. That came through as I remember it in 1890-1891. I used to work for the Kingfisher Lumber Company, hauling from Guthrie on the railroad to Kingfisher. Later, I worked in an ice plant there as night engineer. I was married in Kingfisher.

While in Kingfisher, I became acquainted with a few

Indians there. I have even attended the Indian dances and danced with the old squaws before I was married. I had a number of full blood Indian acquaintances. I never had any difficulty in getting along with them.

When the Cherokee Strip opened, I made the run from a little east of Hennessey. There were three of us grouped to make the run. The other men were Robert Llewelyn and Jerry Vance. We left our covered wagon, and took our horses and rode them. I did not succeed in getting a claim that day but later took claims out by Coltry. I did stake a claim but did not like it. So I hitched my wagon and came to Ehid the same night. The next day I staked my present farm. I found that another man had staked it before me but I made a deal with him and secured the place.

I filed on this place in the fall and came here next spring, on the fifteenth of April. I first built a little house, part dug-out and part lumber. I think I only had six-dollars and a wife to keep when I finished that little home. My house was located in the center of the present farm in a draw. We did not always have the finest food to eat. We lived partly on the wild game which abounded.

There were plenty of prairie chicken, quail and a

- 4 -

few deer. Sometimes we lived on kaffir Corn. When we were able, we would trade at North End.

I settled here because of the soil, the good water and the level uplands. I did not like the red soil farther east. I have seen 60 bushels of corn to the acre raised on land around here but we do not get the rain we used to in this country.

Both my father's people and my mother's people are from Pennsylvania. Both families were farm people. Father died in the spring of '64, about the time I was born. The family had moved to Ohio, and I was born in Lawrence County of that state. Father died in the spring and I was born that fall, so I never saw my father.

My father had two brothers in the Civil War. So did my mother. One of mother's brothers was killed and the other was crippled. Both my parents are buried in Ohio.

I have three living children. Another child died during the war of the influenza. One of my daughters, Mrs. F. A. Irion lives in Fairview. Her husband is sup't. of the Fairview schools. I also have a boy in Dallas,

Dale Mount, and a daughter in Enid.

I have a sister living in Oregon named Mary Taylor, and had a brother who died in infancy. I am one of the few who is still living on the place he took in the early days of the country.