

3

\* INDEX CARDS

Contests--Old Oklahoma

Railroads--Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Gulf

Railroads--Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific

Supervisors Note:

The field worker who interviewed William Noble was discharged from the project before compiling his report. The following are his unedited notes.

Fieldworker: Arnold H. Aronson

Date: February 13th, 1937

283

BIOGRAPHY of George W. Noble  
 given by son, William Noble  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
 BORN 1850 in California

Father: George E. Noble

Mother: Naoma

\*\*\*\*\*

At the age of forty, Mr. George E. Noble decided to be one of the "lucky ones" in the opening of Oklahoma. Mr. Noble, as explained by the son, William Noble, wanted to attend the "Run" in Oklahoma so that he could get 160 acres. This land proved very high, and today is worth millions of dollars to the old 89'er. The son states that his father is very old and sick, and that very few people may see him.

Mr. George E. Noble, sooner, had on the right to the land in a ruling of President Grover Cleveland in 1896, when they contested their claim to a stake. The land was staked in 1889, during the run. It was 160 acres, one mile east of new city, and received a lot in town. It was Lot 6, Block 36, and is located, 125 feet west of Robinson Avenue, fronting on northwest, first street. He built a shack on the lot. Then the railroad came through, and the shack was removed. Lots of people sold their lots as low as \$25.00 but Mr. Noble kept his, however the railroad was on it. While the contest was pending in the interior department, the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad built its line across the property. This right of way subsequently passed to the Rock Island and then to the City in 1928. While the contest was going on the Railroad

company signed a deed from Mr. Noble in March 23, 1891, and it was October 2, 1896 when Mr. Noble won his contest and his deed recorded. Meantime the property was already in use by the railroad.

Mr. William Noble says, that his Dad came all the way from California to Oklahoma in a covered wagon, and came before the opening however, his Dad, was called a Sooner and squatter, but won a long fight for railroad land.

The railroad failed to state the right-of-way or to begin improvements and left the land open for settlement the same as any other land. The Rock Island's deed from the Nobles, was held to be the railroads only title. The state courts first decision in effect held that the claimants who staked the lots were actually squatters, and had no right to the land in the first place.

The case was appealed to the United States supreme court, that court held that the Rock Island did not acquire title to the land through congressional act, but by deed from the people previously ruled to be squatters. The Noble and George Noble case was for the test. It therefore follows that the Noble's title is superior to that of defendant.

It is regretted very much that Mr. Noble is a very old gentleman, and weak in body, therefore, Mr. William Noble, son of the fine old man, asked me as a favor not to interview his Dad at this time but gives the above information gladly.

(end)