Form D-(S-149)

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

NIEMAN, W. H. INTERVIEW. 10492.

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) April 18, 1938. 193

1. This legend was secured from (name) W. H. Nieman.

Address Blanchard, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe

2. Origin and history of legend or story

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached

NIEMAN, W. H. INTERVIEW. 10492.

Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
April 18, 1938.

Interview With W. H. Nieman,
Blanchard, Oklahoma.

My parents came from Germany to America in 1860 and settled in Texas where I was born October 2, 1871. I remained in my home state till I was nineteen years old in 1892, at which time I made my advent into the Indian Territory in a covered wagon.

There were several families coming along at that time and so we formed what was called a group of pioneers and set out making about twenty miles per day.

After we entered the Territory the group divided as they wished to go to different sections of the country.

After leaving the others I journeyed along for some few days and then decided to settle down in what was known as the Cheyenne country at old Cordell which at that time was a Government townsite and consisted of one store. But soon another store was put in, also a hotel. There was a post office located there and for some little time

everything seemed to point to a future when the old town of Cordell would soon become a thriving little town. However, this promise was to be of short duration for before long a few new buildings began to be built some few miles west of us and a townsite was laid out and given the name of New Cordell.

We at the old point began the fight for we realized our old town of such long standing was in danger of being lost but in spite of our every effort the new town continued to grow and soon the order came to move the post office to the new town.

As soon as statehood came the county seat was placed at New Cordell and all buildings from our old town were moved to the new one.

The new town continued to grow and prosper until today it is one of the most thriving towns in the western part of the state.

My first home here was a sod house for there were no logs to build a log house and so sod was used instead.

I entered into the business of stock raising and farming, the principal crops being wheat and oats. The

crops were small; there was no use in growing large crops for there were no markets for our surplus except when some rancher would buy up most of the surplus crop which was used for feeding purposes for range cattle.

I developed many warm friendships among the Indians and I always get along with them. Some of my neighbors did not fare so well with the Indians. I recall that just north of my place once a cowboy was attacked by a band of Indians. He was alone and put up a game fight, but the Indians killed him then stuffed his coat full of grass, set fire to it and burned him. This almost caused a war between the settlers and Indians; several settlers had already banded together and were preparing to kill that band on Indians outright and the Government had to call out the soldiers who were stationed at old Fort Reno. This was the only thing that stopped the actual killing out of that band of Indians, and might have included the entire tribe who were Apache Indians. These Indians were to have been rounded up at old seven four prong Cavalry Creek and killed. This was an old Indian battle ground,

where in the very very early days many Indians were killed in battle against other tribes.

Game was very plentiful, especially turkey, deer, prairie chickens, and antelope.

Many times I have hauled the dry waste from cattle and ricked it to be used for fuel.

I filed on a claim and began a more progressive course of farming since a market for farm products had come to our country. I have been actively engaged in the business of agriculture ever since, progressing along with the development of the country.

My parents are both buried at Giddings, Texas.