

Nannie Lee Burns IPH Interviews of Ottawa County, Oklahoma
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Earlier Mining

This successful mining had not been father's first venture, for he had an interest in mining and was often around the Galena fields, knew ore, and was always watching for it. In 1891, having to haul water for home use a mile and a half, he hired Robinson and Steelman to drill him a well at the home where the windmill now stands. This was drilled to the depths of sixty feet, but later it was deepened.

With Governor Renfrow, father formed the Tar Creek Oil and Gas Company, which leased a large part of the Quapaw acreage. They were interested in oil then, because of the fact that Tar Creek gets its name from an oily tar found near it. They drilled a few shallow holes and became discouraged; so they turned their acreage as a wildcat proposition to the Pennsylvania Company of that state who needed some acreage to fill in.

The Baxter Springs Home

Mother decided that she wanted pea fowls and so went with father to the home of Mr. Cooper in the north part of Baxter Springs to get them and he offered to sell them his house. The purchase was made that day and the family was moved to Baxter Springs; but the farming operations were still carried on at the farm and father came down each day.

We moved to Baxter Springs in 1900. While there father helped reorganize the Baxter National Bank. Mr. Brewster and the father of the late Charles Fribley of the city were his associates in this work.

In 1905, he bought his first automobile, a Great Smith, made in Topeka, Kansas. In 1915, he became active in the mining field here in the Tri-State District, but he sold out in 1917. He spent his time as he chose, but much of it was with his books. Mother passed on the farm home December 21, 1934.

My Activities

After finishing school, I secured a position on the road in connection with bank advertising and followed this till I decided that I wanted to be a rancher; so in Kansas City I purchased a load of cattle and shipped them home and followed them and remained here till I was selected as one of the persons allowed to go to Oklahoma University from this county for a short course in radio and engineering. From the University, we were sent to Camp Donophin and sailed for France, September 5, 1918; but were switched around and so did not see any active service. I left France for home on December 24th. June