

POWERS, IDA MAY.

INTERVIEW

#9445

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INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

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

9445

Field Worker's name Ruby WolfenbargerThis report made on (date) December 17 1937

1. Name Ida May Powers
  2. Post Office Address Sentinel
  3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 17 Year 1893
  5. Place of birth Texas
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6. Name of Father Sam A. Brandon Place of birth Tennessee  
Other information about father Farmer
  7. Name of Mother Emma McGaughy Place of birth Mississippi  
Other information about mother Housewife

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Ruby Wolfenbarger  
Investigator  
December 17, 1937

Interview with  
Ida May Powers  
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Texas May 17, 1893. We were just about twenty miles from the Territory line.

My father, Sam A. Brandon, wanted more land and cattle. We didn't have but about forty acres of land.

We moved to the Territory December 24, 1900. We had two wagons, about fifteen head of cattle, lots of chickens and a few turkeys.

We crossed Red River about dark; the river was all ice and when we drove the wagons onto the ice they broke through and we nearly froze to death. We had to leave the cattle until the next morning. The next morning was Christmas day; we landed at Marietta, in the southern part of the state. This was a timbered country with lots of blackjack, elm, cottonwood, post oak and persimmon trees.

My first home was a log house which had a sheet-iron top chinked with lime and mud and a dirt floor.

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We didn't have any screen doors and had half slide windows with leather hinges. For our broom we used broom weeds, which grew around there when we first came to the Territory. Our only lights were candles or strings braided and put into pans of grease. We had plenty of wood to burn; it wasn't any trouble to go out and get a load of wood. We had to haul water about three miles and this was very inconvenient in the Winter time.

Father planted cotton, corn and mixed feed. We sold our corn for about 50 cents per bushel. My mother made our vinegar out of apples; We had to grind our coffee. We made our sorghum in the Fall.

There was some wild game around there, squirrel, rabbit, quail and opossum. My brother trapped in the Winter. There was lots of wild grapes, plums and berries.

I went to a subscription school about three months out of the year. The school house was one room, made from cottonwood logs, had split cottonwood logs for seats; we didn't have any desks. The only books that we had

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were spellers and we had slates and pencils. The teacher was the only one who had an arithmetic; she put the lesson on the blackboard and we had to copy it on our slates. We had to walk three miles. Our lunch consisted of sorghum molasses with a little butter and cornbread.

We had church in the school house. This was about the only time that the neighbors ever visited. We had big dinners on the ground during the summer months after the crops were made.

All children had to work and help in the fields. Some of them had to work out for the neighbors and help provide for the family.

My father went to town about once a year to buy our winter supplies; he just bought what we really had to have. We had very few clothes in the early days.

I lived at Marietta with my parents until I was married to Jim Powers, one of the neighbor boys, then we moved near there and farmed until we moved out here near Sentinel.