

HAMILTON, E. O. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

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Louise S. Barnes,
Investigator,
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Interview with Mrs. E. O. Hamilton,
El Reno, Oklahoma.

I was born in Massilon, Ohio, in 1877, but from the age of six after the death of my father, made my home in Kansas with an Uncle and Aunt until I was eighteen.

When I arrived in Oklahoma at the age of eighteen, I knew no one except my three uncles, named Heuison and who all had staked claims close to where Geary is now located. It was my duty to keep house for them and I will tell you of the arrangement of the house. The house was 14 by 16, made from rough boards, and built with the boards running lengthwise with batting on the cracks, of both the sides and ceiling. There was a cellar built below the house, in which my three uncles slept. I slept alone in the house of which one corner was the kitchen, another the dining room, another my bed room and the fourth the reception room. Of course one piece of furniture made up one whole room. This place is located in the northeast quarter of Section 10-13-11 in Blaine County

and the house is still standing.

For our meals my uncle, Joe Heuizen, shot lots of wild game and we used this meat to live on. We had deer, wild turkey, prairie chickens and rabbit. I would cook either sour dough biscuits or pancakes to serve with the wild meat. We had lots of berries and plums in those days, also.

For our good times we had literaries, spelling matches, hayrack rides, dances, writing schools and parties, to which we walked, rode horseback or went in wagons, and by wagons I mean a large lumber wagon.