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INDEX CARDS

Cheyenne-Arapaho Opening
El Reno
Living Conditions
Sentinel

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Ruby WolfenbargerThis report made on (date) September 10 1937

1. Name George T. Anderson
2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 29 Year 1871
5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father D. Anderson Place of birth unknown
Other information about father Farmer
7. Name of Mother Reba Youngblood Place of birth unknown
Other information about mother _____

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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
Interviewer
September 10, 1937

Interview with
Mr. George T. Anderson
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, August 29, 1871. My parents both died when I was very small. I roamed around for some time and when Oklahoma was opened for settlement I decided to try my luck in the new country. I was living in Texas at that time.

I started out in a covered wagon with two other men, October 26, 1893, and landed in Oklahoma five days later. We camped in Blue Grove on Red River the first night. The second night we spent at Duncan; the third night we camped near Fort Sill, and the last night at Raney Mountains. This was also an Indian camp. Big Tree was the chief of this tribe. They treated us very good. Some of them were very shy and backward, not having much to say.

I came on to Sentinel, or rather where Sentinel stands to-day. This was just a big prairie with grass higher than a man's head. I picked out a location and went to Cloud Chief to file on the land. This was the second day of November. I filed on my land about eight o'clock in the morning.

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I didn't have any money, so I went back to Texas and worked at odd jobs . I picked cotton, worked on the farm until March, then I came back to my claim and dug a dugout, it was 7x9. I went to Oak creek to a saw mill and got the lumber for my home. My lumber cost \$7.50, and left me with \$1.50 only.

After I got my dugout finished I went back to Texas. I broke wild horses and picked cotton while there until December. Then I came back and started to improve my land. I broke and put more land into cultivation.

The reason that I made so many trips back to Texas was because I didn't have any money. I had to go back and work, as there was no kind of work in this part of the country at this time. I made about twenty five trips back before I came to Oklahoma to stay.

I had to go to El Reno after my groceries and my other supplies. It took about four days to make the trip there and back. I bought three hundred and seventy pounds of wire in Bowie, Texas on credit until I could make a crop.

I made one bale of cotton from three acres of land the first year and had to haul it to Ryan, Oklahoma, to

sell it. I received \$26.00 for it. I went on into Texas, and with what money I had saved and my \$26.00, I bought four head of cattle. I drove these back after Christmas.

The next spring I broke more land, planted more crops, put out a garden, and an orchard, and built a small frame house, it was built out of pine lumber and was about 8x12. I had no furniture. It was just a bachelor's quarters. I didn't have any chairs; just sat on the floor. The only light that I had was from a stump fire, I cooked on a camp fire, didn't know what a cook stove was. The only dishes that I had was a tin plate cup and saucer; I brought from Texas.

When I first came to this country there wasn't any timber at all, and the creeks were all dry. There was lots of wild turkeys, deer, antelope, prairie dogs, rabbits and prairie chickens. There were also lots of rattlesnakes, which killed lots of stock in the early times.

I got my mail once a week at Salem, this was some distance from my place; the postoffice was in a half-dugout and was kept by a Mrs. Woods.

We had numerous blizzards in the early days. One

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night we were out herding cattle when a blizzard hit.

We had to make camp in a draw, that night. We had about twenty cattle men and their cowboys to come and stay with us. The next morning we fixed breakfast for them.

I have seen water freeze in a well, in the early days, the water being fifteen feet from the top.

I have known a hot wind to blow for thirty days at a time, but it didn't burn things up as it does now.

Charlie Allen and myself are the real old pioneers of this city and community. I will have been here forty four years this October. I still live on my land, which is located one mile east and two miles north of Sentinel.