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

Field Worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) March 25, 1938

1. Name Ida Sherbon Barr

2. Post Office Address Dover, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 22 Year 1879

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

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 3.

BARR, IDA SHERBON.

INTERVIEW.

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator  
March 25, 1938

Interview with Mrs. Ida Barr,  
Dover, Oklahoma.

Motherless pioneer girl.

I was born October 22, 1879, in Missouri. After my mother's death I went to live with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Jones, and when I was ten years old I came with them to Oklahoma from Gauda Springs, Kansas, by wagon and located on Turkey Creek, three miles northwest of Dover. I can remember the first trip I made to Dover--there was a store and post office combined and all around this building there was cord wood that people had cut and brought in to trade for groceries.

There were seven wagons that came from Kansas with us and it took us ten days to make the trip. It stormed while we were on the road and we had to spend one night at Waukomis where there was only a section house. It had rained so hard they were forced to stay at Skeleton Creek several hours before they could cross. They arrived at the homestead about noon and ate their first meal under a large oak tree.

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My grandfather had brought grandmother's loom house made from 1 X 12's with a one way sloped roof and the men put it up, so it was ready to sleep in that night. We then built a house that was called a stockade house, a log house with the logs placed up and down and the roof covered with shingles which my grandfather made by hand.

The country was covered with blue-stem grass, some was taller than my head. We had a large sand hill behind our home that kept us from being burned down several times from forest fires.

I attended school in Kansas in 1890, staying with my father, but returned to the pioneer country as soon as school was out. My husband had made the Cherokee Strip Opening and filed on a claim, and we moved there as soon as we were married. I remember well when Raniky Bill used to come to grandmother's to watch her weave carpets.

The first Fourth of July I spent in Oklahoma was celebrated at Enoch Cole's who lived neighbors to my grandparents. They had built a dance hall from cottonwood slabs and had invited all the neighbors to join in the celebration.

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We made ice cream, which was a rare thing then, and we had a wonderful time dancing after which the cowboys who were riding the open range brought in a deer to finish the day with.

My husband, Lincoln Barr, was a cowpuncher and rode the range before Oklahoma became a state. He helped burn the country off for the Opening and located the land he intended to file on, the day before the Opening. He made the Run with the rest and staked this claim but when he went to file they asked him if he had been in Oklahoma Territory in the last thirty days. Of course, he had so he was disqualified but his mother who was following him up in the wagon filed on the claim. Mr. Barr then made the Run in the Cherokee Strip and filed on a claim which he later traded for land close to Dover; I still own this land.

We had enough to eat but not much of a variety, for there was nothing raised the first three years and sand plums were all the fruit we had until some trees could be raised. Those were the hardest times and I know the happiest days of our lives.