

HALE, MATTIE.

INTERVIEW

10513

145

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

HALE, MATTIE

INTERVIEW

#10515

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) April 20 1938

1. Name Mattie Hale

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma

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

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 2 Year 1877

5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father Sam Warren Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Sara Presby Place of birth Tennessee

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 3.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger  
Investigator  
April 20, 1938.

Interview with Mattie Hale  
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Tennessee. My father owned a small farm there and was very prosperous.

I married at an early age and my husband decided to come out here and get land as we had friends out here who wanted us to come out. I didn't want to come as I had heard stories about how wild the Indian country was; however, in 1902, we sold out and started out here. We came on the train to Mountain View; the railroad had just been completed through there. An old friend of ours met us there in a wagon and took us out to his home, which was seven miles southwest of Sentinel. We had a nice trip out to his place but we didn't see very many people on the road or homes. Everything was half-dugouts which looked very odd to us.

We stayed with our friend for several weeks for we wanted to find a good location to build our home, as we planned to stay out here. We bought land three miles south and one east of Sentinel.

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This country was all that our friends claimed it to be and much more. At that time the country was being settled very fast. People were coming in all over the state. Most all the settlers were dirt farmers, the cattle were just about all gone. Grass was not so plentiful as it had been.

At one time the streams were all filled with fish, but they, too, were not so plentiful. The early settlers and the Indians had lived on fish and the Indians sold them in some parts of the country.

We bought a good well-improved farm, which had on it a small two-room house and a dugout. We didn't have any family so we didn't have to use the dugout. We also had a small barn for our cows and chickens. There was a small orchard, not much variety but we had fruit the second year that we were out here.

Farmers around were growing more cotton and less corn; cotton was very cheap. We took our first bale to Granite and sold it. Times were harder out here than they were in the Eastern part of the state for people in the east could grow a variety of vegetables and fruits and there were also lots of wild berries to be found in the east - strawberries, dewberries,

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blackberries, currants, plums and grapes. There were also lots of nuts in the east but we didn't find anything like that out here.

I didn't know very much about the schools in the early day as I didn't have any children in school for several years and they had improved lots in six years.

Our only entertainments were the church, Sunday School parties, singings, a few box suppers and picnics.

We owned this place for over twenty years and it proved to be a very good investment for us.