

INDEX CARDS

Opening - Kiowa-Comanche
Farming
Living Conditions

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

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Field Worker's name Ruby WolfenbargerThis report made on (date) August 27 1937

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1. Name Isaac Jones
2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) _____
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 2 Year 1858
5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father Isaac Jones Place of birth Ohio

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Charollett Reaville Place of birth Ohio

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 _____.

JONES, ISAAC.

INTERVIEW.

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I moved to Oklahoma from Tennessee just after the Kiowa-Comanche country was opened for settlement in 1901.

I located a few miles south of Hobart, ^{where} "Babb's Switch" is now located. I rented one hundred and sixty acres of land from a man at Hobart.

Our place had been in cultivation for a year and we had a very good three-roomed house, a good barn and the land was fenced part of the way across. I helped put out an orchard the next year. There was some timber left but not too much. The country was just a big prairie.

There were lots of coyotes in the country around us.

I did all of my farm work with a team as we did not have any machinery then as we do now.

Cotton was my principal crop. I tried to raise corn but I never did have much luck with it. I have been in Oklahoma over thirty years but I have never raised but one corn crop.

My land was very rich and fertile and we raised a good crop and an extra good garden most every year.

I had several good milk cows and these kept us in plenty of good milk and butter. I had neighbors who were not so fortunate as to have a cow and I always divided with them and they in turn would help me with my crops.

JONES, ISAAC.

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People were more helpful in the early days than they are today.

I raised hogs to furnish my winter's supply of meat. My wife raised lots of chickens and turkeys. There was not much wild game in our neighborhood then, just a few jack rabbits and squirrels.

I planted a little wheat and just made enough to keep us in flour and I also divided my flour with my neighbors. Some of them had to eat cornmeal three times a day.

In 1912, we were visited by one of the worst cyclones that Oklahoma had ever had. Our house and all our furniture was blown away and all that we ever found was one of the windows and the glass in this window was not broken. We lost lots of chickens, turkeys, one horse and a cow. Almost every house in that community was blown away or damaged. After that we had to start over again; we bought some new furniture and bought a cloth rug--this was one of the first cloth rugs in the community.

✶ I sent my children to school at "Babb's Switch"; this was the same schoolhouse that was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve. This was just a small, one-room, frame

JONES, ISAAC.

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building and the seats were just long benches made from cottonwood lumber. Heat was furnished by a big wood stove. The boys would take time about making fires and keeping them going during school hours. The teacher would let two of the larger boys take time out and chop wood. Some of the children walked to school while others rode. There were always three or more children in one family who went to school. The teacher taught Arithmetic, Reading, Writing and Spelling.

About the only entertainments and socials that we had were picnics, dances, singing schools and in the winter we had what we called tacky parties. We always had lots of fun at these tacky parties. They were held at the school-house.

The only newspaper that we ever saw was one that was sent to us from Missouri. It was the "St. Louis News."

We had our first telephone in 1910. I lived in the Kiowa country until about ten years ago when I sold out my farm tools, machinery and my stock and bought a home in Sentinel. I have five acres of land, one cow, chickens and two pigs and I try to make a living with these.

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I have eight living children.

I have seen good times in Oklahoma and bad times but I do not think that I have ever experienced a drought like the one we have had for the past few years.

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Openings--Old Oklahoma
Oklahoma City
Contests--Old Oklahoma

Field worker: Arnold N. Aronson

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Story of Dr. R. W. Higgins's fight for his claim of land in Oklahoma City.

Told by his son-in-law Jack Jones, Oklahoma City

Dr. R. W. Higgins was one sooner who won his claim to land in the ruling of President Grover Cleveland. The property claims of the pioneer doctor who drove his team to water a few minutes before noon April 22, 1889 were upheld for the second time in 48 years.

Dr. R. W. Higgins a native of Kentucky was living at Caney, Kansas when he decided to enter the "run" of 1889. With a span of spirited horses he waited for the signal on the last border of Oklahoma Territory. As the hot morning dragged by Doctor Higgins decided to drive his team to water. His son-in-law, Jack Jones recalled that because the doctor choose to drive his team into the territory his claim to a quarter section of land west of Oklahoma City was contested. For nine years the case went through the channels of the Department of Interior until it finally reached President Grover Cleveland, Then as Mr. Jones, son-in-law of Dr. Higgins relates the story, the president decided Doctor Higgins had performed "only an humane act" in driving his team to water and his claim for the 160 acres was upheld.

Mr. Jones said that several times during the nine years the claim was in court squatters built houses on wheels and moved