

GRAMLICK, NICK.

INTERVIEW

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LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) December 24 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Nick Gramlick

Address \_\_\_\_\_

This person is (male or female) White, -Negro, -Indian,

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

Oklahoma As A Boy

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

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Louise S. Barnes  
Investigator  
December 24, 1937.

Oklahoma As A Boy.

I am the second oldest of eleven children, and I was born January 17, 1877, in Robinson, Brown County, Kansas. In August, 1890, when I was fourteen I came to Oklahoma with my grandfather, John Jauck, from Brown County, Kansas, to Kingfisher. We made this trip by train.

I don't remember so much about the trip down but after we got to Kingfisher, we hired a cart to take us out to the place on which my grandfather had homesteaded, that was SW<sup>4</sup>-15-15-6. There were no roads then, just paths and the grass was higher than the mules' backs in many of the places along the way.

The Chisholm Trail ran through my grandfather's farm and it was the main wagon trail at this time to transport supplies to Anadarko and Fort Sill from Wichita. Some of these wagons carried more than three tons of freight drawn by three to six yoke of oxen. The heavy freight was cutting such a deep road in Grandfather's place that we decided to ditch the trail so they would change their route and keep them from ruining the farm. It was while I was making the ditch with a shovel across the

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trail that one of the freight wagons came along and the driver tried his best to drive across the ditch but got stuck, he got very angry and was going to whip me, but I picked up my shovel to hit him also and he decided to give it up and changed his route after that.

Grandfather and I "batched" for sometime by ourselves; then my parents came down from Kansas and homesteaded on NE<sup>4</sup>-21-15-6.

I worked out for several years with a thrashing machine and many a time I have worked from sixteen to eighteen hours a day in the years of 1893-94 for seventy-five cents a day and I would pay forty-five cents a day for board. Then I taught school for several years and my wages then were twenty-five dollars a month.

The one thing that impressed me more than anything else was the time when four or five hundred negroes came to Oklahoma from around Memphis, Tennessee.

It was early in the winter of 1892 and they came near our home, some had come by wagons, some on mules, some driving oxen leading a cow or two and the majority of them were walking with picks on their backs, but all were very hungry and had no

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money and they were begging everyone for help. As near as I remember their story was that there was some negro had gone down to Memphis and told the negroes that he would get them located in the Cheyenne country if they would give him ten dollars each. So there was this whole group who had taken up his proposition and now after they had made the trip they could get no land so the settlers ran the negro who had made the promise out of the country and the other negroes settled wherever they could and this is the reason there are so many negroes around Dover. I have lived in and around Kingfisher all the rest of the years since I came to this country.