

KENNARD, SARAH TENNESSEE

INTLRVIEW #9243

264

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

KENNARD, SARAH TENNESSEE

INTERVIEW

9243

Field Worker's name Mildred B. Mc Farland

This report made on (date) November 17 1937

1. Name Sarah Tennessee Kennard

2. Post Office Address Arcadia, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 14 Year 1870

5. Place of birth South West City, Missouri

6. Name of Father Richardson
Benjiman Franklin Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Elizabeth Richardson Place of birth Tennessee

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 _____.

KENNARD, SARAH TENNESSEE

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9243

Mildred B. McFarland,
Investigator,
November 17, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Sarah Tennessee Kennard,
Arcadia, Oklahoma.

My husband and I lived on a farm in Missouri at the time of the opening of Oklahoma. Reports came to us of the wonderful opportunities in the Indian country so two years after the opening we decided to take a chance. On April 6, 1891, my father-in-law, my husband and I started out. I drove a covered wagon, Father drove a team of oxen and my husband rode on horseback. He herded six horses and forty head of cattle. I brought a half dozen hens and a rooster in the wagon along with a bushel of dried beans, one hundred and fifty pounds of dried fruit, two butchered hogs, a calf and enough lard to last almost all year.

We bought a relinquishment from a Mr. Barber, one mile north of Arcadia. There was a small one-roomed log house on the place and a well had been dug. There was no floor in the house, but the dirt was packed hard. I ripped up feed sacks and sewed them together to cover the floor. My

KENNARD, SARAH TENNESSEE

INTERVIEW

9243

- 2 -

6

dish cupboard was a drygoods box nailed to the wall, with a curtain in front. We made three stools of split logs with pegs for the legs and made a table of a large box. We made our bed from peeled poles and ropes. I brought my dishes, cooking utensils and bedding with me. There was an old rusty stove in the house and we gave Mr. Barber \$2.00 to leave it. He had never plowed the ground except for a small garden. The next year we raised about ten acres of the finest cabbage in the surrounding country. That year we cultivated about half of the place. The third year we started to build our present home and have been adding a little to it for forty years.

We organized a Sunday School and church in the blacksmith shop in Arcadia. The Baptist preacher from Edmond came about once a month to preach a sermon. He used the anvil to lay his Bible on. There were no schoolhouses near us for about two years after we came here. Then one was built in Arcadia. We held our "literaries" and spelling bees there. Our mail was brought to Arcadia every four days over the "Star Mail Route". The carrier drove a two

KENNARD, SARAH TENNESSEE

INTERVIEW

9243

- 3 -

seated hack and occasionally he took passengers.

Ladies' styles were quite different from the styles of today. It required ten yards of material to make a dress. We never thought of going out without at least three full petticoats, starched so stiff that they rattled.

The sleeves were mutton-leg style and the waists of the dresses had tight backs. We always drove a team of horses and a big farm wagon when we went anywhere. When we bought our first buggy, I was so proud of it, more so than when we purchased our first automobile. The neighbors were kind and considerate of one another. We had a hard time getting started but we were young and life was before us.

The Kickapoo Indians came through our place quite frequently, but they never bothered us. Occasionally they brought some deer meat or a wild turkey.