

KING, JOHN L.

INTERVIEW

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Louise S. Barnes,
Investigator,
February 23, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. John L. King,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

I was born in Mississippi, June 6, 1869. I came to Kingfisher after the opening with my father, on the train. Father filed on a claim one and one-half miles south and six east of Kingfisher. We farmed this place until we had all the sod broke, every year we would break out a few acres.

I was not yet twenty-one when I came to Oklahoma so I ~~went to the farm and lived with my father and helped him get~~ the sod broke and get his farm ready for use. We made our living by clearing land for other people and selling the wood we cut from the land. There was a lot of wood burned and especially after we got the mill built that was fired entirely by wood. I have cut many a rick of wood off of Oklahoma land for this mill. I have worked harder than any other time for fifty cents a day, but I did not mind because we had happy times and when everyone has the same chance it gives everyone the same feeling, and you can either make good or fail.

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I went back to Kansas several years after I came to Oklahoma to work in the harvest fields, because there was very little work you could secure around Kingfisher for the cash money, you usually had to take your wages out in something they sold and then try to trade it for something you needed, for instance when I sold the wood to the mill I had to take it out in feed, flour or corn meal and then find someone who needed it who had something I needed but that is the way Kingfisher got its start. I have enjoyed every year I spent in this town but that does not say everything I hope the future generation has the same chance to try out their ability as we did.