

TITLE, S. 7. INTERVIEW.

#4441

234

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

Worker's name Eunice M. Mayer

report made on (date) June 15, 1907

Name S. B. Tittle and Mrs. Tittle

Post Office Address Granite, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) Tittle Grove northwest of Granite

DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 30 Year 1857

Place of birth Rusk, Texas

Name of Father James B. Tittle Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father Killed in Civil War

Name of Mother Jennie Findley Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about mother School teacher.

For 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 5.

Samuel Houston Tittle was born at Rusk in Cherokee County, Texas, 1858. He was reared near Alto in Cherokee County, living there until 1876. When he was eighteen years old, he went to Taylor County to work on a ranch. After staying in Taylor County one year he returned to Cherokee County and went to school until 1878, when he went to Clay County with a herd of cattle.

Mr. Tittle came to Greer County in August 1880, driving a herd of cattle of Haney and Powers. Haney and Powers ran the H-A-Y- and Jaybuckle outfit in Greer County, later merging with the H-Bar-Y outfit. The combined outfit had twenty thousand head of cattle in Greer County.

The outfit ranged from the Salt Fork to the North Fork of Red River. The cattle were kept along the North Fork in the summer and along the Salt Fork in the winter. Sometimes there would be blizzards that would drive the cattle south as far as Red River, Pease River, and the Wichita River. Then it would take all the next spring to get them back into Greer County.

In 1885 the outfit fenced a large pasture, with the southeast corner of the pasture near the present site of Reed. The fence then ran along the divide between Elm

and Salt Fork Rivers to the Texas line, then north along the Rocking Chair fence, which was on the Texas line, to the North Fork, then east along the North Fork River and south to Reed. Until the pasture was fenced, the headquarters were on the Salt Fork; in 1885 they were moved to Jaybuckle Springs.

Mr. Tittle was wagon boss most of the time. When J. R. Haney, general manager, was away from the herd, Mr. Tittle would look after his business.

Mr. Tittle recalls when he came to Greer County in 1880 there was no settlement of any kind except two stage stands, one at Bloomington near Station Creek and one on Salt Fork near Altus. The prairie grass was waist high.

The first few years Mr. Tittle was here supplies were hauled from Dodge City, Kansas, to the ranch. Freighters with four, five, or six teams of oxen carried supplies through the summer. Mule teams were used in winter.

Mr. Tittle gave up his ranch life when he was appointed county commissioner in 1886. He resigned as county commissioner and was appointed sheriff. Altogether he has spent twenty-five years in the sheriff's office during the forty-three years since Greer County was organized.

Mrs. Tittle, the former Laura Hensley, was born in Southwest Missouri, but was taken by her parents to Montague County, Texas, in 1871, when she was three years old. After ten years in Clay County, the Hensley family moved to Wilbarger County. Mr. and Mrs. Tittle were married in Wilbarger County, on March 3, 1887.

Mr. Tittle bought a claim from John Broadie in 1896 and Mrs. Tittle and the children moved on it to hold it down. It was located in "the cove" at the northwest corner of the present site of Granite where Mr. and Mrs. Tittle now live.

"We had quite an experience," Mrs. Tittle said. "It was Indians in Texas and outlaws in Greer County."

The most anxious times she ever experienced, Mrs. Tittle recalls, was when Mr. Tittle was gone out to look for Bill Brooking, Joe Beckman, Red Buck, or some other notorious outlaw. Sometimes he would be away two or three weeks and she would not hear of him. Another one of her anxious moments was spent when Mr. Tittle went into the Kiowa country to arrest Bill Brooking, a cattle thief. He did not tell her he was going until he was ready to start

just before night. She walked the floor all night, Mrs. Tittle said, with only her baby son, Louis, at home with her. The next morning she looked to the north and saw a group of horsemen coming over the hill where the Mangum High School building is now located. Her anxiety was increased when she saw a slicker flapping from a horse and thought it was the body of a man. Soon the men arrived at the jail and she saw Mr. Tittle get off his horse and walk around. "That was a great relief to me," Mrs. Tittle said. "I would hate to live those days of suspense over again."