Form A-(S-149)

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

WILSON, W. H. INTERVIEW. 9788

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal.

This report made on (date) January 26, 1938 193

1. Name W. H. Wilson

2. Post Office Address Lawton.

3. Residence address (or location) 420 H. Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 13 Year 1880.

5. Place of birth Hannibal, Missouri

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Note: Or complete narrative by the [illegible] worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for [illegible] subjects and questions. Continue on [illegible] and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

WILSON, W. H. INTERVIEW. 9788.

Ophelia D. Vestal,
Investigator.
January 26, 1938.

Interview with W. H. Wilson,
Lawton, Oklahoma
Born July 13, 1880

We lived near Hannibal, Missouri, for many years until father's health became very poor, then on the advice of some friends he decided to come here as it seemed to be a dry healthy climate.

In November 1901, we were sold out of every thing except the three hundred acres of good farming land. We arrived in Lawton by way of train and stopped at the Farmers Hotel on Railroad and A Street.

Many tents were here yet, though some buildings had been erected. We boys heard of a boxing match for the evening and went down town in our shirt sleeves, it was so nice and warm. The next morning it was so cold that on the water wagons icicles were hanging almost to the ground.

In a few days time I had a position with the fire department. It was a $5.00 fine if any fire wagon did not go to help fight the fire and a $5.00 reward to the one that got there first. I only worked there a few months then secured

work on the ice wagon. I worked in the business section of town on C, D, E, and F Avenues from Railroad Street to Sixth Street. I started to work at four o'clock in the morning. There were ninety-six saloons in this town and I delivered ice to eighty of them.

One Sunday I decided I might start a new territory so I took a small boy with me; going to the Red Store. I tried to get acquainted with people outside of this new town, we drove up to the Indian Agency and saw lots of tepees and big Indians. It was a hot day. Soon an Indian came up and wanted to buy a small piece of ice. I told him I couldn't sell pieces any smaller than five cents worth. Well, he said Maybe five cents worth." I measured and cut the ice for him, then he had me cut a smaller piece about the size of a double fist, then came another and another until one dollar's worth of ice I took out there with me brought $10.50. They wouldn't buy five cents worth and divide it among them. Each person had to pay for what ice he wanted.

I was to take a ride in the funny vehicle with a good friend, one day. It was one of the first cars here. We

went to Cache Creek east of town, then had to push the car back. Then I was asked to go to a station to sell some gasoline to a friend one Sunday. I went for the gasoline and they took me on a sight seeing trip of the country and I gave them a dollar to bring me back.

A few years ago I took my family back to my old home. We went to the place where Mark Twain was born and saw a feather bed and bedstead in the home. The feather bed was home spun material. The springs were made of ropes. A bronze monument stands in Riverside Park in memory of Mark Twain. We also went to the Mark Twain Cave where he played when but a boy. I have been told that Jesse James and his friends have hidden in this cave and hidden their horses there; it is very large.