

NORTHCUTT, REBEKAH • INTERVIEW

#8142

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NORTHCUTT, REBEKAH.

INTERVIEW.

Form A-(S-149) #8142

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

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Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) August 3, 1937

1. Name Rebekah Northcutt

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 13 Year 1861

5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father D. D. Harpole Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Sara D. Bryant Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Housewife

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 5

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Interview with Rebekah Northcutt
Sentinel, Oklahoma

Investigator - Ruby Wolfenbarger
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
August 3, 1937

I was born in Tennessee, November 13, 1861.
I left Tennessee, in 1873, with my parents and
moved to Texas. We crossed the Indian Territory,
going through Muskogee, Okmulgee, Oklahoma City,
and El Reno. There was nothing much here at that
time, just a few Indians in the eastern part of the
state.

In 1889, I moved to the Indian Territory from
Texas. There were six wagons making up the party.
Three of the wagons were drawn by oxen. Progress
was very slow. The children walked along and
gathered flowers and picked berries.

We camped out at night, just any place where
night found us. The men gathered brush and made
the fire. Sometimes we would stop and catch a mess
of fish or kill a wild turkey or a prairie chicken
for our supper.

We hobbled the horses and some of the men would act as guards at night. Some of the settlers had their food stolen from them, but none of our party did.

We came up through Altus and Granite. Around Granite Mountains. There was nothing up through this western part of the country except the blue grass, not much timber, just a few cow trails. There was also the old Western Trail that the cattlemen used to drive their cattle to market.

We bought one hundred and sixty acres of land from a man who lived at Retrop, five and one-half miles west of Sentinel.

There weren't any improvements on the land, just a half-dugout and a well. We lived there about one year before we built a house.

We bought six head of cattle, another team, some chickens, and six turkeys.

We had to go to Granite, Weatherford, and sometimes El Reno after our groceries and other things for the farm.

In the early times I knitted socks, stockings, and gloves, and sold them to help with my home expenses. I sold socks for twenty-five cents a pair. It took about one day to make a pair. I also did fancy work and crochet for other people. I knitted all of our underwear.

I made my thread also, wove my sheets, and sometimes I made these out of colored thread. This made them very pretty. It was a rather tiresome job to thread up the loom. I also made carpets out of rags, and sold these.

We got our mail from Weatherford, and had to drive over after it.

The "Orient Railroad" was put through Sentinel in 1907. Then we got our mail brought out to us every morning. The mail carrier drove out in a buggy.

Our chief newspaper at that time was a Dallas paper; we also got a paper from McKinney, Texas.

Our musical instruments in the early days were the fiddle, banjo, organ, jews harp, and the dulcimer. Few people owned pianos.

We wore long tight basque dresses with full skirts and mother hubbards. We put ten yards of material in our best dresses, and five yards in our skirts. We used lots of lace, tucks, and ruffles. We wore our hair done up on the top of our heads. Sometimes we curled it just a tiny bit. We curled it on kid curlers. We didn't know what rouge, lipstick or powder were. What we used instead of powder came in small lumps. We used a chamois skin for our powder puff.

We lived on this farm until about fifteen years ago, then we sold out and bought a farm two miles west of Sentinel. We lived there until last January, when I lost my farm. I owed a heavy mortgage on it, also on my stock. I am now residing in Sentinel with my son.