

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Ruby WolfenbargerThis report made on (date) September 21 19371. Name Claude E. Hayes2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 17 Year 18835. Place of birth Warren County, Tennessee6. Name of Father James L. Hayes Place of birth TennesseeOther information about father Farmer7. Name of Mother Willie Bray Place of birth TennesseeOther 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 3.

Ruby Wolfenbarger
Interviewer
September 20, 1937

Interview with Mr. Claude E. Hayes
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Warren County, Tennessee, August 17, 1883. I had one brother out in Oklahoma who wrote letters back home to us telling about what a wonderful country this was and what good prospects he had in making money by farming. I became discontented with my home life in Tennessee so at an early age I left home and came to Oklahoma.

I came on the train to Mountain View in the southwestern part of Oklahoma; it was just a small place had one store, post office, blacksmith shop and a few houses, most of which were just one room houses or dugouts.

I picked cotton all fall and worked on the farm, cut wood and hauled water as the place where I worked didn't have any well and we had to haul water from a neighbor's well which was about five miles away; we hauled the water in barrels.

The next year I rented forty acres of land from a neighbor man. I put most of this in a truck patch. It was about half way between Mountain View and Carnegie.

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I planted beans, peas, corn, sweet potatoes, turnips, pumpkins and tomatoes. I raised a good crop and made a little money. We had a good year for our crops, had plenty of rain most all spring and summer.

I picked cotton again that year and saved what little money I could and after the first of the year I rented one hundred and sixty acres of land. I had a hard time the first two or three years, I didn't have any farm tools or money either and just had to start at the bottom and work up.

My place was well improved for that time; the land was almost all in cultivation and was fenced in. We were allowed to turn our cattle out and let them graze. There was lots of grass and plenty of water for our stock.

That year I planted cotton, corn and wheat. I sold my cotton at Mountain View for 5 cents per pound. I got 20 cents per bushel for my corn.

I made my flour out of my wheat that I raised and had my corn ground at the grist mill.

I bought two cows the first year, some chickens and one pig. Each year I tried to add a few cows to my herd; at one time I had twenty head of cattle. I kept my family in plenty of milk

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and butter the year around. After the first few years I made lots of money from my cream. I took this cream to town about once a week.

I farmed around that one place for over twenty five years but I have never owned a farm yet. I always rented and since the drought set in and crops have failed I could not make a living for myself and for my landlord so I gave up farming and moved to Sentinel, where I now live.