

POWERS, JIM T.

INTERVIEW#

1381

405

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

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Field Worker's name Baby Wolfenbarger.

This report made on (date) November 22, 1937

1. Name Jim T. Powers.

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) ibid

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 18 Year 1889

5. Place of birth Cook County, Texas.

6. Name of Father W. O. Powers. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about father Farmer and cattleman

7. Name of Mother Bessie Moore Place of birth Missouri

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 3.

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Ruby Wolfenbager,  
Investigator.  
November 22, 1937.

Interview with Jim T. Powers  
Sentinel, Oklahoma  
Born July 18, 1899  
Father-S. O. Powers.  
Mother-Doqia Moore.

I came to the Territory in 1891 from Texas when I was only eighteen months old, so, of course, I don't remember anything about the trip except as it has been told to me. Our reason for coming to the Territory was that my father didn't have any outlet for cattle in Texas as he had river bottom land, but he didn't better himself any when he came up here. He located just across Red River, near the city of Marietta and took up an Indian lease, I think of about sixty acres. We had a small two-room box house with a fire place in one end.

There was lots of timber around that part of the country, we got our wood from the river to burn and to make our fences. We had to put a rail fence around our gardens to keep out the stock. Every one was forced to put up their hogs around there but other stock ran loose. Our principal crops were corn and

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cotton. My father ran a grist mill and in the fall operated a sorghum mill. We raised some wheat and oats, just about enough wheat to keep in flour; we ate corn bread three times a day in the summer time.

There were lots of wild plums and other fruit along the river and in the woods such as blackberries, dewberries, currants, and wild grapes. We used green coffee parched and ground at home and we had to use sorghum to sweeten it with. There was plenty of fish and wild game such as squirrel, coon, opossum, and rabbit, also lots of coyotes and wolves.

We ~~didn't~~ have any schools for a number of years so I ~~didn't get to go to school until I was about ten years old.~~ We didn't have time for much school for we had to work in the field and work out to help with the family. The first school that I went to was a log house about 12 x 14; the benches were just big logs split in <sup>two</sup> and we didn't have any desks. The only books that we had were the blue black speller, a slate and pencil. This school was called a subscription school, the parents had to pay \$1.00 for each child sent to school. The only entertainments that we had

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were parties and dances. We had church about once a month in a log house called Chickasaw Gap.

That country was full of Indians, the Chickasaw tribe. They were civilized and made very good neighbors as long as they would stay sober and let whisky alone. Lots of the white men intermarried with the Indian girls to get their money and their land. We lived around that part of the country for many years. It was a beautiful country, the soil was very fertile.