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

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.

This report made on (date) May 13 1937

Lone Wolf Okla.

Name Alonzo Poling

Post Office Address Wilberton Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) South on Highway in Kiamichi Mountains.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 21 Year 1854

Place of birth Homney Old Virginia on south bank of the Pontoniac river.

Name of Father Thomas S. Poling Place of birth Hampshire Va.

Other information about father Born Nov. 6th 1829. Parents from Wales.

Name of Mother Malinda Pownall Place of birth Va.

Other information about mother Relative of Colonial Governor

Pownall of Massachusetts. Friend of Benjamin Franklin.

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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INTERVIEW WITH ALONZO POLING  
FIELD WORKER ETHEL B. TACKITT.

On November 21 1854, I was born at Momney in old Virginia on the south bank of the Potomac river, this was before the state was divided. My father was Thomas S. Poling who proudly traced his ancestors back through generations. His father came from Wales and took part in founding the United States. My mother was Malinda Pownall of the Pownall family of Colonial Governors of Massachusetts. Her family was also proud of their record.

When quite a young man I went to Clark County, Ohio, and in 1887 came to Edwards County, Kansas, where I taught school in a little sod school-house for \$30.00 a month for two years. I had about thirty pupils.

Those years the wind, and grass hoppers destroyed most all the crops. It seems to me the wind blew harder and hotter than it does now.

When Oklahoma was opened in 1889, April 22, I stood in line and when the shot was fired to go, I made the run.

I got a claim, but to my great disgust, it proved to be School-land and of course I had to give it up.

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I soon met Deputy United States Marshal George Thornton and he appointed me as posse-man to assist him enforce the law. Those were troublesome days and the Deputy Marshal could not be everywhere at once, so these posse-men were hired by him and when an outlaw or other trouble came up, he would send the posse-man in charge of the group of men to bring in the offender or get the stolen property. I worked under Deputy Marshal George Thornton until 1891. I received \$3.00 per day when at work. I then worked under Deputy Marshal E. D. Nix until 1894. In 1894 I was duly appointed United States Deputy Marshal and I moved from the Chandler district to Oklahoma City.

Many things happened during these years but they are court records.

I was a soldier from Oklahoma under Colonel Roy Hoffman in the Spanish American War, but it ended before I got out of the United States.

In 1901 when the Kiowa Country opened, I registered and drew a number and located my claim, three miles west and two miles south of Lone Wolf, in Kiowa County. On this farm I

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made a home and raised my family. I have a good house and fine orchard on it, and am among the very few people who drew a claim to own it yet.

Since my family is now grown, I have now gone over in the Kiemihi Mountains, south of Wilburton and built me a little home, high up on the mountain, on the beautiful highway which the Government has lately constructed. Here I love to live among the mountains and the people whom I have known all these years. I have lived forty-eight years in the service of Oklahoma and Oklahoma has been good to me.