

POWELL, A. J.

INTERVIEW

#4737

341



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Ruby Wolfenbarger,  
Field Worker.  
June 29, 1937.

An Interview With J. A. Powell,  
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma from the plains of Texas in a covered wagon. My brother and my father-in-law came with me. It was in December and very cold. We were on the road seventeen days and nights. It snowed on us most of the way and we had to stop and make camp for three days until the weather got warmer. We had a real snow storm and blizzard.

We did not have any trouble with the Indians but saw lots of them around. They were most always going hunting.

I located at Martha in the western part of Jackson County, ten miles from what is now Mangum.

We had one small room and a two-room dugout to live in. The dugout was walled up with rock, also had a cement floor and seven windows. It was about thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. It had been the home of a man who had filed on the land a few years before.

We had a pretty good well, but had to carry water for some distance. For fuel we burned just about every thing that we could get our hands on; we had some coal to burn.

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4737.

-2-

We lived about one mile from the school house that was also used for the church house. Everyone would come in wagons and on horseback. Sometimes they would have camp meetings, these would last for several days or weeks when people would bring their food and camp out.

Our crop was not very good the first year. The land was new and had lots of gyp in it. It was very rocky; we planted cotton, oats, wheat and alfalfa. I had to haul my cotton to Martha to have it ginned. We got about \$65.00 for a bale of cotton. I raised about twenty bales the first year.

We raised a garden, but didn't have much success; we canned what we could. My wife raised lots of chickens and turkeys.

I had four head of horses, three cows and all kinds of farm implements.

I tried to make sorghum but the soil was so "gyp" that we could not eat the sorghum. We had our cornmeal ground about every two weeks.

For entertainment we had lots of "literaries", singing schools and Sunday School picnics.