

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

Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt

Report made on (date) August 13 1937

Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma

Interviewer Thomas M. Seals.

Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) R- 3 Lone Wolf.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 8 Year 1884

Place of birth Dunlap, Tennessee

Name of Father James Seals Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father X

Name of Mother Tabitha Clemons Seal Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Died- in Mr. Seals early childhood.

For complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Write on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached .

SEALS, THOMAS M. INT RVIEW 8443.

Ethel B. Tackitt,
Interviewer,
August 13, 1937.

A Interview with Mr. Thomas M. Seals,
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

I was eight years old when I came with my parents, James Seals and Tabitha Clemons Seals, from Tennessee to the Indian Territory. We came in 1892 and settled near Webbers Falls on the Arkansas River in what is now Muskogee County.

We brought all we had with us in a covered wagon drawn by a team of horses.

There were no roads and the trees were cut off along the way short enough for the team to pull the wagon over them.

Father leased some land from an educated Cherokee Indian by the name of Jess Shoemaker; he cut the timber off, built a one roomed log house and planted a crop. The land was very fertile and produced an abundant crop.

All court proceedings at that time had to be taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and a summons was issued for Father with

SEALS, THOMAS M. INTERVIEW. 8443

- 2 -

some other men to appear as witnesses in a case and as was usual at that time they started out on horseback through the woods for Fort Smith.

The timber was so thick and the trees grew so near the road that a large tree fell, catching Father and his horse under it and crushing them to the ground.

The other men in the party were not caught but hastened to get help and took Father on to Fort Smith, placing him in a hospital. There was no way to get word to us unless someone would ride on horseback to tell us of the accident. It was several days before we could reach Fort Smith where Father was in the hospital. He remained in the hospital for sometime as his injuries were severe.

Wild hay was cut in abundance in this locality and was called blue-stemmed sage. Many persons had a thousand acres under fence for hay and pasture. A man could hold as much land as he could arrange with the Indians to hold.

Frank Vose, a Squaw man, had a pasture more than twenty miles square and he had an enormous herd of cattle, mules and hogs.

SEALS, THOMAS M. INTERVIEW. 8443.

- 3 -

There was much large timber of all kinds in the country as it had not been cut out or burned by fire at that time.

There was a little town consisting of a blacksmith shop, a store and a grist mill run by steam, about two miles from where we lived. This settlement was on Dirty Creek.

Father and a neighbor took some corn on a wagon drawn by oxen and started to the mill and I went along and we had to cross the river on a ferry boat. They drove the oxen and wagon with me on it onto the boat and when the ferryman started, the oxen began to back the wagon and into the water we went, wagon, corn and oxen and I.

Father jumped into the river and pulled me out; the oxen swam to the bank and pulled the wagon out but the corn was lost.

When the Kiowa country was opened, I came to Lone Wolf and here I have lived on my farm until the present time. Now I work with tractors instead of with oxen and

SEALS, THOMAS M: INTERVIEW.

8443.

- 4 -

with combines in place of the scythes and there are
high-ways from here to Fort Smith and telephone and
radio service everywhere.