

PRENTISS, JAMES MONROE. INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Ruby WolfenbargerThis report made on (date) June 3 19371. Name James Monroe Prentiss2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel, Oklahoma.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 23 Year 18625. Place of birth Denton County, Texas6. Name of Father John Prentiss Place of birth TennesseeOther information about father Farmer7. Name of Mother Cynthia Watson 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.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,
Field Worker.
June 3, 1937.

Interview with James Monroe Prentiss
Sentinel, Oklahoma.
Born June 23, 1862.
Father-John Prentiss.
Mother-Cynthia Watson.

James Monroe Prentiss moved into Indian territory in 1891 at the age of 29 years. He came from Clay County, Texas. With his wife and three children he settled on a farm south-east of Duncan. He came here in a covered wagon. He settled here because it was new country, and he thought he could do better.

None of his immediate family made the run into Oklahoma.

Their first home was a half dugout with a log cabin built at the back of it. The cabin was made of logs and covered with boards, made from oak trees.

Their furniture consisted of two beds, four chairs, two trunks, and one cook stove. They did not have any conveniences of any kind.

Water was very scarce in the early days. They got it from a spring some distance from the house. They got their fuel off the farm, where they cut down the trees.

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Their first business was clearing up the land and getting it ready for their crop. They raised corn, cotton, maize, kafir~~corn~~, and all kinds of feed~~stuff~~. Their livestock consisted of horses and cows. They also raised chickens and turkeys.

Their principal foods were eggs, butter, meat, corn meal, milk, and sorghum syrup, which they made themselves. They bought their supplies at Duncan, and Comanche Country stores were located at Loco and Dixie. These stores were very small, but both were connected with the post offices.

There was a toll bridge and toll mountain over in the Chickasaw Nation. They charged twenty-five cents per wagon for crossing the mountain.

Their personal friend among the Indians was "Dave Jones", a full-blood Chickasaw. They did not have any trouble or any experiences with the Indians.

Game was very plentiful. They had wild deer, turkeys, rabbits, quail, squirrels, antelopes, and prairie chickens. Fish was also very plentiful.

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Churches in the early days were very few. They were mostly made of brush, and were called "Brush Arbors". People came from far and near to attend church. They came in covered wagons and on horseback; many of them brought their food and stayed several days at a time.

Schools were very poor in the early days. Children had to walk several miles to get to school. The school houses were one room frame buildings, with one teacher. The school term lasted for about five or six months each year.

Mr. Prentiss has now in his possession a sugar bowl and a six-legged, drop-leaf, walnut table, which he brought to Oklahoma from Tennessee.

His parents were both buried in Tennessee.