

SMITH, GUS.

INTERVIEW

10167

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) March 2, 1938

This legend was secured from (name) Gus Smith

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

Origin and history of legend or story Smuggled land.

Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Louise S. Barnes,
Investigator.
March 2, 1939.

Interview with Gus Smith,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

I was born in New Madrid, Missouri, and came to Oklahoma after the Opening in 1889, locating at Kingfisher and intending to stake some of the land that had not been filed on at that time.

When I came to this country there was still quite a bit of land that had not been filed upon and I thought I would try to secure one of these eighty acres, but it was not easy to do this because so much of the land was bruggled; by that I mean maybe one person would stake on a place and his brother would stake on another, leaving one place in between, which would be held until a relative would come and file a claim on that section. It could plainly be seen that Oklahoma was no

place for a poor man to secure land after the opening because you just had to have some cash to buy off either the one joining the land or employees at the land office. This was very hard on me who had come here to make my home, because I had sold everything before I left my native state and I had nothing to return to, so I stayed and made the best of every-

~~Change~~

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I have enjoyed seeing the town and state grow up and
intend to stay here the rest of my life.
