

STAGAS, F. W.

INTERVIEW

10566

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

STAGGS, F. W.

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes.

This report made on (date) April 21, 1938... 1938

1. This legend was  
secured from (name) F. W. Staggs.

Address Hennessey, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator,  
April 21, 1938.

Interview With F. W. Staggs,  
Hennessey, Oklahoma.

I was born on December 15, 1858, in Hampshire County, West Virginia, and came from Concordia, Kansas, to Pond Creek in 1889, on the train and from there the railroad furnished wagons to go on through so I bought my ticket to El Reno. Long before dark the men wanted to camp but a lady in the crowd was afraid we would miss the opening, which we would have, so she got up on one of the wagons and gave a long drawn out speech to make the men who were going through to the race see what an opportunity we would be missing unless we made them drive on, so the men forced them to go until the middle of the night before we camped, even then we only got to the line about an hour before the opening.

My brother and I jumped off about a mile north of old Hennessey and got a claim; his was on school land so I gave him my claim and I went about a mile and a half north of Hennessey and I bought a place, then we had to walk into the town of Kingfisher. Finally, after we got to the Cimarron

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River we got a boy in a cart to haul our baggage. I lived on the place that I bought near Hennessey until the country began to get more civilized; it was really a sight after the opening, so many wild animals, and the settlers were so far apart it took some time before we could raise chickens and turkeys and keep them from the coyotes in the broad daylight. I believe then was when I began to study and like wild life. I don't know what else it could be called living out on the wide open prairie.

I returned to Illinois and farmed awhile but I wanted to finish my life in Oklahoma around my home on the prairie, so I returned to Hennessey and have lived here since.