

RAMSEY, PARTHENIA E.

INTERVIEW

10198

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

RAMSEY, PARTHENIA E. INTERVIEW. . . . . 10198.

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger.

This report made on (date) March 9, 1938. 1938

1. Name Parthenia E. Ramsey.

2. Post Office Address Sentinel.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 19 Year 1839.

5. Place of birth Illinois.

6. Name of Father Miles G. Hamilton. Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Barbara Boger. Place of birth Kentucky.

Other 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,  
Investigator,  
March 9, 1938.

Interview With Parthenia E. Ramsey,  
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Illinois, September 19, 1839. My grandfather G. Hamilton fought in the Revolutionary War under George Washington. I have heard my father tell stories that his father told him about the war and the hardships the men had to go through during the war.

My father, Miles G. Hamilton, knew Abraham Lincoln and had many long talks with him. Lincoln lived in a nearby town with his mother. At that time he was a lawyer and came out to a little country place, two miles from our house, to court. My father often said that Lincoln was a

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bright, honest and sociable lad.. I also remember the Mexican War. At that time I was about six years of age.

I moved to Texas with my parents in 1854. We made the trip across the country in an ox wagon. We were on the road about seven weeks. I lived in Texas until about 1896 when my husband decided to come up here. We had lots of cattle and horses as my father gave each of us children

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stock as we married and started homes of our own. My first trip to the Territory was to visit my son, who had settled on a claim in what is now Washita County. We came through in a covered wagon. We got lost several times and we always had to ask the Indians the way. We could not understand them but they would draw lines and pictures on the ground and point in a certain direction and we could go any place by these directions if we were careful. My son lived in a sod house, had to go to the Kiowa and to the mountains to get enough fuel to keep from freezing to death. Sometimes they had to burn corn and cottonseed.

We had some real cold weather in the early times and it was a problem to keep enough wood to burn. We visited with our son for several months then we went back to Texas and sold part of our stock. We brought about thirty head of cattle and horses. We also brought our furniture and our chickens.

We saw lots of wild game on the road. Also saw great herds of cattle grazing out on the range. The boys wanted to stop and fish in the streams of water that we crossed.

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We were on the road about three weeks, progress was very slow as we had to drive the cattle. Grass was very plentiful, it was as high as a man's head and stayed green most all the year. We didn't have to feed any of the stock except the work horses. We branded our cattle and turned them out on the range.

We located on Trail Elk Creek north of Sentinel. We lived in a sod house and in a tent until we could haul lumber from Vernon, Texas. It took about ten days or two weeks to make the trip. We dug a well just as soon as we could, but the water tasted just like copper and we could not drink it so we used it for a stock well. We didn't buy very much in the early days, just what we had to have. We raised most everything that we had to eat. We got our flour, coffee, sugar and other things from El Reno. We went there about once a year. I ate dinner in a tent in Sentinel the day that the town lots were sold.

We had lots of prairie fires in the early days. My sons have fought fires for three days and nights without sleep and with very little food. Sometimes the fires destroyed the homes and stock of the settlers. I will

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be one hundred years old the 19th of September and I live alone, do most of my house work and I always plant a garden and flower garden. I have always worked hard since I was a small child. My grandfather lived to be ninety-eight years old.