

ALMAN, SARAH SMOOT INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Ida A. MerwinThis report made on (date) August 27, 1937

1. Name Sarah (Smoot) Rieman
2. Post Office Address Route 3, Perry, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 9E on Highway #64; 2N $\frac{1}{2}$ W from Perry
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 16 Year 1880
5. Place of birth Dongola, Illinois

6. Name of Father Adam Smoot Place of birth IllinoisOther information about father Old Pioneer7. Name of Mother Mary Karraker Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother _____

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 5.

Interview with Sarah Rieman
Route 3, Perry.

Interviewer -- Ida A. Merwin
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
August 27, 1937.

Sarah (Smoot) Rieman, daughter of Adam and
Mary (Karreker) Smoot, was born at Dongola, Illinois,
February 16, 1880.

Mrs. Reiman states:

In 1890 my parents moved from Kansas to Oklahoma,
locating northeast of Guthrie to await the opening of
land for settlement. In making the trip from Kansas,
there was one other family with us. We came in
covered wagons, bringing necessary articles and our
stock of horses and cows.

We could not travel far in a day on account of the
cows.

We followed the trail from Arkansas City to
Stillwater, and when we reached Black Bear Creek, near
where the town of Sumner is now, we camped for the
night.

The place where we camped that night is on the
farm that my husband and I now own and on which we are

now living. At this place there was a toll bridge which was run by Joe Clifton. There was a ford near but it was very difficult to cross and as we did not have much money Father decided to ford. We did so successfully but shortly afterwards another wagon came over and in crossing turned over. This upset and its results cost them more than if they had paid the toll.

We rented a farm and raised real good crops.

In 1893, Father and one of my brothers made the race in the Cherokee Opening but failed to get any land and shortly afterward, Father bought out the rights of another settler about one-half mile east of where the town of Sumner is now located.

In March, 1894, we moved to this land; there was a small one room box house here that had been built by the one who staked the land and we built a smoke house for a storage room, also a cave or dugout and we slept in this cave and used the small house to

cook and eat in. We did not have much furniture only things we needed most.

When we were settled after the move from near Guthrie, we only had twenty-five cents in money but during the three years on the farm near Guthrie we had real good crops and were prepared.

We had cured meats and lard to do for the summer and we also had a barrel of sorghum and when we had sold the surplus crops we had purchased a thousand pounds of flour; this, with what the cows and poultry provided made our living until we could raise a garden and the first crops.

We could not raise much the first year on the prairie sod, only corn, cane for sorghum, garden vegetables and melons and some oats for feed.

We had fair farm machinery which we had used on the other farm and had moved with us.

The first Sunday School was organized by C. H. Lacy, who lived in a very large tent, one-half mile

south of where the townsite of Sumner is now.

Services were held in this tent for some time; later a dugout was made on the farm which W. K. Shepherd now owns and Sunday School and Church services occasionally were held in this dugout until a building could be built.

A school district was organized and a small building was built one mile east and one-half south of where Sumner is now. This was known as the Poole School; later this was consolidated into the Sumner District.