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INDEX CARDS

Kiowa-Comanche Reservation
Red Store
• Cloud Chief
Sentinel
Dugout
Homemade Furniture
Trading Post
Sod School House
Prairie Fires

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



Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) August 31, 1937

1. Name Charlie V. Allen

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 27 Year 1893

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father C. C. Allen Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Sara M. Anderson Place of birth Alabama

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 _____.

An Interview with Mr. Charlie V. Allen, Sentinel.
By - Ruby Wolfenbarger, Field Worker.
August 31, 1937.

My parents moved to Oklahoma from Texas when I was three years of age. I do not remember the trip but I have been told about it since childhood days and I know that my brothers and sisters had a great time on the road.

We came through in two covered wagons; we brought our household goods and my father and one other man drove twenty-seven head of cattle through for us. It took about seven or eight days to make the trip.

We tried to make camp at night near a good stream of running water. The men liked to find a good place to fish.

We camped at Allen Springs near Marlow; we also camped at the Red Store; this was a government store and school in the Indian Reservation near Fort Sill. We were between groups of Indians most all the way. Some of the older Indians gave us a little trouble, but the younger Indian men were very nice to us.

Our cattle had to swim across Red River and as the river was up we lost two or three head of cattle.

We camped at Mount Scott. This was an Indian Mission

near Mountain View.

We came on to Sentinel and located four miles north-east of Sentinel. All the country around Sentinel was just a vast prairie at that time.

My father went to Cloud Chief and filed on the land. He got a patent on the land from President Theodore Roosevelt. This was the only deed that he ever got on the land.

We had one-hundred and sixty acres of land and the sage grass was higher than a man's head. It took lots of hard work to get through the first few years. We broke the land with oxen the first year. We built a dugout to live in; this was about thirty feet long and twenty feet wide and we left a space in the end of the dugout for a cook stove. The cook stove did not have any legs and we just set it upon the bare ground or shelf that was left for it.

We had a corded bed; this bed was made out of ropes running both lengthwise and crosswise; these ropes were used in place of springs. Our furniture was made from Cottonwood blocks and our tables and chairs were homemade.

For fuel we burned corn which we could buy for fif-

teen cents a bushel, cotton seed and cow chips. My father made my sister and me take a cotton sack and go out on the prairie and gather chips every morning.

We planted all kinds of food-stuff the first year. Cattle men would drive past our place with as many as six thousand head of cattle in one bunch taking them to shipping point. Our place was not fenced and these cattle would get into our corn and other feed and eat it all up. The cattleman would pay for the damage done. Then sometimes our cattle would mix in with theirs and after they left we would be short several head of cattle. This proved to be a very good and profitable business for the cattlemen.

We did not have any water for a long time; we dug a well but the water was very bad and hard and we hauled water from the creek for the stock.

We hauled our groceries and farm supplies from Duncan and Montague, Texas, and we also hauled our cotton to Duncan and Bowie, Texas.

I never saw any white sugar until I was about fifteen years old. We did not have much sugar then and what we did have was brown sugar.

We had a sorghum mill and made sorghum for our family use and also for our neighbors. We had to use the molasses to sweeten our fruit, that is, if we were able to get any fruit. We raised lots of vegetables in the early times but we did not have much fruit.

We had cows and chickens that furnished plenty of milk, butter and eggs.

The first school that I ever went to was held in a two room sod house. The seats were stools made from cottonwood stumps or blocks. We had school in one of the rooms and the neighbors kept hogs in the other room. There were about twenty children who went to this school. We had double slates to write on. I did not get much education because I had to work in the field most all of the time.

Everyone, old and young, went barefooted at that time. I would take my girl friend to church on Sunday mornings and we would go barefooted until we got nearly there and then we would stop and put on our shoes and stockings.

In the pioneer days everyone worshipped together; we just had one church and everyone worked together regard-

less of his or her belief.

We had lots of prairie fires in the early days. The prairie would get on fire and everyone would come out to help fight the fire. Sometimes the farmers would have to plow around their houses, barns and haystacks; these fires burned for a month sometimes.

Cattlemen at that time would slip around at night and set the prairie on fire; they wanted to drive out the farmers or "nesters" as they called us.

My father kept this home until he passed away last year.
