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INDEX CARDS

Chickasaw Nation
Indian Burials
Dugout
Russett

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

Field Worker's name Ethel E. Palmer
 This report made on (date) May 29, 1937

1. Name Sarah May Baldwin
 2. Post Office Address Leedey, Oklahoma
 3. Residence address (or location) Rural Route
 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 11 Year 1874
 5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father William Ward Place of birth Tennessee
 Other information about father _____
 7. Name of Mother Anna Shelton Place of birth Kentucky
 Other information about mother Buried in Oklahoma

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 _____

Interview with Sarah May Baldwin.
Leedey, Oklahoma.

I was born in Travisville, Tennessee, in 1874, and moved to the Indian Territory in 1891. We lived there four years (this was in the Chickasaw Nation).

We came to Oklahoma in 1895, in Custer County. In 1896 we moved to Dewey County and filed on a place, Section 26, Township 16, Range 19, where I am still living.

When we came to the Indian Territory there were lots of Indians. They were forever getting drunk, and when they did we knew to stay away from them for they were very dangerous.

There was lots of timber there. I have helped my mother spin and weave when I was a small child, but never did any myself. In those days we wore basque dresses, and real full skirts and they were really full. We wore lots of ruffles on our dresses and would cold starch our slips, they would really stand alone. I remember going to church with my folks in a wagon, some people drove oxen but we never did. They really had some old time camp meetings, the old ladies would shout

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all over the place and some of them would go off in a trance and have to be carried out.

I can remember that the Indians buried their dead in their yard. They would hew out logs and build a little house over the graves. One man was one-half Indian and his wife was a full blood. They buried two of their children in their yard, and two in the white people's cemetery.

We moved to Oklahoma in a covered wagon. Our first house was a dugout, with three logs around it on top of the ground. It was covered with dirt. We dug a hole back in the bank for our barn. Mr. Baldwin made our first table out of cottonwood. We had a well of water. We would draw this water with an old time bucket. We would go about fifteen miles to Gip, a little country store, to do our trading. This store is not there any more. Our roads were just trails, we just could get over them in a wagon. We never knew what road work was those days.

Later we built a one-half dugout made of cottonwood

with a shingled top. Later we built the house in which I am living at present time.

I lived in Russet in a log house that had one window and one door in it. Russet was a small place then, there was just a gin and a grist mill.

There were not any roads in that country, you just wound around in the forest. We didn't have bridges then either. There was one bridge between Russet and Manville, that is just planks laid across the creek to cross on.

We went to Manville to buy our supplies, about ten miles.

We had church in the winter time in the school house, but in the summer we would have an arbor made of brush. People would come and camp there. These meetings would last for weeks.

There were lots of wild turkey, deer, and fish there.

We raised corn and cotton there. All we had to farm with was a Georgia stock and double shovel.

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That was a timber country, and of course they made lots of lumber. I've seen them have six or eight oxen to the wagon hauling logs to the mill. They made very nice lumber there.