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BRANNAN, SARAH ELLEN

INTERVIEW #8011

321.

BRANNAN, SARAH ELLEN. INTERVIEW.

8011

Interviewer, . thel Mae Yates,
July 27, 1937.

Interview with Sarah Ellen Brannan,
Elk City, Oklahoma.

Born May 2, 1875,
Independence, Arkansas.

Parents James Brannan, Tennessee,
Sarah Brannan, Carolina.

My mother, two brothers, a sister, two uncles and their families and myself came to the Territory in the year of 1889. We came from Brown County, Texas, in covered wagons. We camped out at night but slept in tents. We came to old Greer County for the purpose of getting a home. This was before the Run.

We staked off a claim and built a house. We dug down about fourteen inches in the ground for foundation and built a two-room box house. We hauled our lumber from Quanah, Texas.

Our trading post was Luke, one store and a post office run by a Mr. Perry.

We brought several cattle and horses with us when we came.

Our fuel was mesquite stumps and grubs.

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We sodded in some corn and planted a little garden the first year we were there. We also planted eight acres of wheat and made one hundred and seventy-five bushels.

We were there two years before we had any school house. We built one down on Cottonwood Creek and called it Cottonwood School House. It was located one and one-half miles from us.

We had church once a month.

There were plenty of deer, antelope, prairie chickens, and quails. There were also plenty of wolves, coyotes, some wild cats and cougars.

One day one of my brothers and another man got after a cougar and ran him in a gyp pit, but he ran out between them and they never got to kill him. They did get a good scare.

There were also plenty of rattlesnakes. My uncle killed one hundred of them from February until August.

We lived there five years but did not make very much after the first year.

We had one scare by the Indians while in Greer. All the neighbors gathered at one house one night as they had

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heard the Indians were coming. However, the Indians were passing through and did not bother anything. We stayed on our claim five years then moved to the Chickasaw Nation. We left Greer May 10th and camped at Fort Sill May 12th.

There were many soldiers there guarding the Indians but everything was peaceable; there was a hard freeze there the night we camped there. We got to Ardmore the eighteenth of May and bought a forty acre farm, four miles east of Ardmore. Here we lived in three-room log house and farmed. We raised cotton and corn; got fifteen dollars per bale for our cotton. We lived here eighteen months then moved to Roger Mills County.

My brother, Lush Brannan filed on a place seven miles southeast of old Hammon which was an inland town and had two stores, one run by a Mr. McRendels. and one run by Mrs. Cisson, who lives here in Elk City now.

Our place was on the banks of Little Kiowa and we used water out of the creek until we could dig a well. We made a rock dugout with a plank roof and covered it with dirt.

Our school house was a little log building with dirt floor and a fireplace. We called it the Kiowa school.

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Mr. McRendels would come out from Hammon and preach for us once a month.

We sodded in some corn and garden; had plenty of plums on our place and went down on the Washita River to get our grapes.

The Indians would come over and trade cooking utensils, blankets and moccasins for food, such as butter, eggs, vegetables, and meat, and if a cow or horse got in a bog and died and the Indians heard about it, they would be right after them. I have seen them skin them and cut them up in strips and string them all over their ponies until I did not see how they could carry them.

Sometimes the Indians would have a dance. They would go a round in a circle and beat a tub for music.

We moved from here to Custer County and bought out a relinquishment and filed. We had a two-room, box house here.

Culler was our post office and trading post.

My mother was a widow and went all the rounds with us. We went through drouths, sickness, leaky dugouts, "varments," smokes and many other things that only a pioneer knows about.