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BROAKSHIER, WILLIE. INTERVIEW

#8897

308

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

369

BROAKSHIER, WILLIE.

INTERVIEW.

8897.

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) October 12, 1937. 1937

1. Name Willie Broakshier.

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 18 Year 1898.

5. Place of birth Fisher County, Texas.

6. Name of Father G. G. Broakshier Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father Cattleman and farmer.

7. Name of Mother Lydia Bell Warrden. Place of birth Don't know.

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 5.

Ruby Wolfenberger,
Field Worker.
10-12-33.

An Interview With Willie Broakshier,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came into the Indian Territory with my parents, in 1902, from Texas. There were three wagons in the party.

I was too small to remember much about the trip. I do remember that we stopped just on this side of Red River and that my father and the other men with our party did a little work. The river was up and we went across on the ferry boat, the boat had to be pushed with long poles.

One night that we camped out some men tried to steal our horses. We had to have night guards as there was lots of horse stealing in those days.

We came on to Wheatland near Oklahoma City and stayed a few days with my grandparents. They had been in the Territory for several years.

My father located near Wynnewood; this was about sixty-five miles from Oklahoma City. My father bought out a crop from a man; most of the land was in cotton and corn.

We lived in a double log house, which made a very good home as it was very warm with plenty of light and ventilation although we did not have very much furniture, just beds, stove, home-made chairs and a table.

We got our drinking water from a nearby spring where the water was very good. We had a well for the stock.

Our principal crop was cotton but we planted some corn and maize.

In the fall, we put-up a sorghum mill which proved to be a very good business. We made many an extra dollar this way.

Our land was very rich and fertile; we always had a good garden and had plenty of vegetables to sell, can and to give to our less fortunate neighbors.

There was, also, wild fruit in that part of the country--lots of grapes, blackberries, dewberries and plums.

There was lots of timber around there; when a man wanted to build a new house or barn he always had big log rolling. Sometimes we would cut logs all day or put up the house; this was lots of fun and the wife would always cook up a big dinner for us. Everyone was more sociable then, than they are today. They were always ready to help each other. When we loaned a man money we never asked for a note, we just took his word that he would pay and that was all that we asked for.

There were many wolves and coyotes; also plenty of deer, turkeys and prairie chickens at that time. I have seen as many as twenty-five wolves in one pack; they would chase our chickens under the house. We had to keep our chickens locked up at night.

The rattlesnakes were also very plentiful and dangerous; they killed lots of cattle that grazed on the prairie.

I have stood for hours at a time and watched cattlemen drive big herds of cattle through to the market. They would have their chuck wagon and cowboys with them. Sometimes the men would stop for a drink of water.

We were working in the field the day that Oklahoma became a state, November 16, 1907. My brothers and I heard the whistles blowing and guns firing in town, Wynnewood, and we dropped everything and started to town. We met our father coming from town and he told us that Oklahoma had been admitted into the Union.

We lived near Wynnewood until 1925, then we quit farming and moved to Sentinel where I now live. I expect to go back to the farm someday when times are better and the depression and the droughts are over.

I had rather farm in the eastern part of the state than in the western part; one can raise most everything to eat. There is more fruit there, also.