

HAM, CLAUDE H. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 15847340

Investigator,
Charles H. Holt,
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Interview with Mrs. Claude H. Ham
Hominy, Oklahoma

My husband, Claude H. Ham, was born in Missouri, in 1877. His parents came into the Territory in 1882, from Kansas, together with four of the older married sons. All five, Father and sons, took claims near Stillwater. They came from Kansas in five covered wagons, bringing with them only camping and food supplies to last six months or more. They all took claims fairly close together, camping until they could build houses on this raw land. They all worked together until a log house, covered with clapboards and the cracks daubed with mud, was built on each of the five claims. There was also a dugout on the Father's claim as there were several children in the family. Crude outbuildings such as barns and chicken houses, etc., were built at each of the five places and later they built better ones.

The Ham families harmonized in their work. Sod plows were put to work breaking the raw land. Corn was the principal crop. It was some time before schools were

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2

built in the neighborhood. But soon the community began to grow and all living in it seemed to take interest in its growth; and especially the Hams as the community is now called the Ham Settlement. This community has for years had a reunion of the Hams every June 1st, which draws about two hundred individuals to the old family circle. Mrs. C. E., the Mother, still owns the original homestead and lived on it till a few years ago and boasts of never having a mortgage against the old homestead, which she believes is quite a record. This old homestead is in the new find of oil.