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CAMPBELL, NONA.

INTERVIEW

10298

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

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) March 21, 1938

1. Name Nora Campbell

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 16 Year 1891

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father John Stice Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Rose Templeton Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother _____

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 _____.

CAMPBELL, NORA

INTERVIEW.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger
Investigator
March 21, 1938

Interview with Mrs. Nora Campbell,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came from Illinois to the Indian Territory in the early day with my husband who was several years older than I. We decided to come out here and go into business for ourselves as my husband was a saddle and harness maker and we thought that we could do better out here. There was lots of work of this type out here then, as all farming was done with horses.

We came out here on the train and located at Norman which at that time was a very nice little city and was located in a little blackjack grove. We had a very nice little house for those days. Our drinking water was very good and also very plentiful. We bought our wood to burn, ready cut, for we could buy this from the streets most any time and a load of this cut wood cost about \$2.50.

We didn't like out here at first for the country was not at all like our old home back in Illinois. However, it wasn't as cold here as it was back there. Soon after we arrived here my husband got work in a harness shop. The pay was small but we didn't want to buy until we looked around.

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There was a good Normal school at Norman at that time and people were coming in there from every place to send their children to this school.

We stayed there for about a year, then we moved to Altus, in the western part of the state but we didn't like it as well as we did at Norman. We stayed there for about eight months and then decided to go back to Illinois, which we did, and stayed a few months and then decided to come back out here.

This time we located at Sentinel which at that time was called "Barton". There were about twelve houses here at that time, two grocery stores, one dry good store, a blacksmith shop, gin, livery stable, or wagon yard as they were sometimes called, and a post office.

My husband rented a small wooden building on Main Street and put in a hardware store and harness shop.
Our stock was very small but we added to it as we could and soon had a very good business.

We did most of our trading at Hobart and Weatherford. This was a very rich and prosperous farming country in those days, the crops were always good and we had lots of rainfall

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at just about the right time. People took more interest in their farms and homes; everyone planted a garden and put out trees and shrubbery around their places. We bought a small three-room house the first year that we were here.

We kept this business of ours until my husband passed away several years ago. It was one of the best in Western Oklahoma and was started with just a few dollars.