

LEGEND & STORY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
 HOWE, J. R. INTERVIEW 9124

Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) November 2 193 7

1. This legend was secured from (name) J. R. Howe

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe WHITE

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

"Securing a Home for My Family"

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
November 2, 1937

Interview with
Mr. J. R. Howe
Kingfisher, Okla.

"SECURING A HOME FOR MY FAMILY"

Joseph R. Howe was born in Hickory County, Missouri, in a log cabin and raised in Dallas County, Missouri, until he was ready to start out for himself. Then he moved to Cherokee County, Kansas. He moved in a covered wagon from there back to Borden County, Missouri and from there to No-Man's-Land. The trip took twenty-one days. He then told the following story about getting his family a home:

I came to Oklahoma April 22, 1889, in a covered wagon, leaving my family in No-Man's Land and bringing only the necessary things. I made the run at the opening of Oklahoma and staked a claim as a home for the family, located on the northeast quarter of Section 18, Township 15, Range 6 in Kingfisher County. I made the run on a mule, leav-

- 2 -

ing my covered wagon south of the place where Kingfisher now stands, but after staking my claim I returned and got the wagon and moved it home. It was fine to know that it was all ours, and that my wife and children and I were going to be together again.

I lived in the wagon until I got all the land plowed and had time to build a dug-out. I went to Kansas then and worked in the harvest fields so I could earn enough money to move my family down to Oklahoma from No-Man's-Land.

My family and I started out in the Fall to move down to Oklahoma to our new home in a covered wagon, bringing some cattle with us so we had to move slowly. It took us twelve days for it rained quite a lot and we would have to wait for the creeks to go down so they could be forded.

We killed lots of wild game and used it a lot to help out for our meals, because money was scarce and we had to do every way to get along.

- 3 -

We even sold prairie chickens at the poultry house and if there were more than we could sell, we would eat them.

I freighted some from Kingfisher to Dodge City, Kansas, bringing back each time a load of freight for Kingfisher because we had to have money to live on until our first crop was gathered. We got along much better then.