

GUTHRIE, J. W.

INTERVIEW

10248

421

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

GUTHRIE, J. W.

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Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenberger,

This report made on (date) March 17, 1938

1. Name Mr. J. W. Guthrie,

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 12 Year 1868

5. Place of birth Bethany, Illinois.

6. Name of Father Francis M. Guthrie Place of birth Ramsey, Illinois

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Matildie Jane Talby Place of birth Illinois

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 2.

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Ruby Wolfenberger,  
Investigator,  
March 17, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. J. W. Guthrie,  
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma in January, 1900, from Ramsey, Illinois. We lived in the great corn belt there in Illinois. I wanted to come out here and get land, I couldn't save any money working for the other person. I didn't have very much land. I chartered a car, brought my household furniture, farming implements, three horses and one cow. Our car came direct to Rocky; I came in the car, my family came on the train a few days later.

I located four miles west of Sentinel and one-half mile north. I bought one hundred sixty acres from a man who wanted to go back east. I paid several hundred dollars down on the place. My house was not much, I had a small two-room frame house. There wasn't any barn, there was a three wire fence around part of the land. I put out a small orchard of peach, pear, and apple trees. I found out here the settlers used different farming tools, than we used in Illinois. My neighbors told me that corn didn't do very well out here. I planted oats, maize, kaffir corn,

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cotton, and a little wheat.

We had a well, but it was not used for anything except as a stock well. We had a cistern and had plenty of water the year around. There was lots of typhoid fever around at that time and the doctors thought that it was caused from drinking cistern water. I bought my groceries from Hobart and Weatherford and I also hauled my coal from Weatherford.

I got my first paper which was the Daily Oklahoman in about 1912. We got our mail out on the route. My first telephone was about 1910. Two doctors put up a line between Sentinel and Port which was a distance of ten miles.

Our schools were very poor out here for several years. The first year that I was out here I was put on the school board. We had our first school at "Combs", a little one-room school house. We also used this for church services until we could do better. We had a union Sunday School. We didn't have very many entertainments in the early days. We had play parties, singings, picnics and ice cream socials. I lived on that place until 1927. We couldn't make anything out there as we didn't have enough rainfall. I turned my farm over to my sons and bought a small tract of land out one mile south of Sentinel.