

KELLY, SARAH ANN STUCKY. INTERVIEW

12252

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

KELLY, SARAH ANN STUCKY INTERVIEW 12852

Field Worker's name Johnson H. Hampton

This report made on (date) November 26 1937

1. Name Mrs. Sarah Ann Stucky, Now Kelly, a Pioneer

2. Post Office Address Antlers, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 28 Year 1859

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Missouri

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 5.

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Johnson H. Hampton, Investigator,
November 26, 1937,

An Interview with Mrs. Sarah Ann Stucky
Kelly, Antlers, Oklahoma.

I was born March 28, 1859, in Missouri and moved to Indian Territory in 1894.

My father died during the Civil War and my mother died after my father died and are both buried in Missouri at our old home place.

My husband, the Reverend Mr. Stucky, was a Methodist preacher; he was sent here by the Methodist Conference as a missionary to the Choctaw people, but prior to this time we were in the 1889 run for some land in the Cherokee Strip, as it was called. I do not remember just what date the run was made but I think it was some time in April 1889.

We were successful in getting our claim; we located our claim near Guthrie and we moved there the following September, 1889, and lived on it until the following April, 1890, when we sold it out and moved to Purcell in the Chickasaw Nation. We did not get much for our claim but

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we were glad to sell at any price in order to get out of there. We had built a log house there and put some of the land in cultivation and were getting along very well until the dry weather hit the country when we came very near starving to death for something to eat and to drink, so the best thing we could ^{do} ~~was~~ to sell out and leave there.

While we were living at Purcell my husband was sent by the Methodist Conference to the Choctaws as a missionary and we came over to the Choctaw Nation and located at Talihina, where he took charge of several churches and rode the circuit on horseback; he finally got a buggy to ride in going from one church to the other. He preached to the Choctaws in English through an interpreter as he could not speak the lingo of the Choctaws himself. I used to go with him to all of the churches where he had to preach. The conference then sent him to the Antlers circuit and we then moved to Antlers. where he took over several churches here. When we moved here he built a personage that we lived in, and when he would go to

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some church I usually went along with him to the meetings to help out with the Sunday Schools and to help him teach the young Choctaws how to sing in English and to read the Bible in English. Of course they had a hard time trying to pronounce the words in the English language; the old Choctaws would read in their own language as they had Bibles that were written in their own language. My husband died and is buried here in the Antlers Cemetery; he was getting pretty old when he died.

At the time we moved to Antlers it was a small town and there were very few people living there then; and they had no school and had but one church; it was a Methodist Church, I think that the Masons who were living here at the time went in with the Methodist people and built this church; the Masons occupied the upper story and the Methodists had their meeting in the lower floor and several years after that the Reverend Mr. E. Brantly, a Presbyterian preacher, moved to Antlers and put in the first school and then he

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built the first Presbyterian Church and after that several churches have been built.

When we first moved to the Choctaw Nation there was lots of wild game in the country; we would be traveling along the road going to some church and we would see turkeys going in droves and we would see the deer in droves as well. Of course we would not bother them but there were lots of them in the country; some times we would stop at some creek for our dinner and while I was getting dinner ready my husband would go down to the creek and catch all the fish we could eat in just a few minutes; the creeks were full of fish all over the country.

I have attended lots of Indian meetings but I attended just one Indian cry; they had this cry at the church; it was preached by an Indian preacher. I did not want to go to another one of them for it was too sad for me to attend anymore of them; they all got around the grave and it looked like everybody took part in the crying over the grave and after the crying

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they had a big dinner.

I have been among the Choctaw Tribe of Indians for a long time; I have been to their churches and have eaten with them at their tables and have been closely associated with them on account of my husband being a missionary to them and I want to say right now that I do not think that there are any better class of people anywhere on earth. There are not as many Indians now as there were then; lots of Indians that I knew are dead and gone; there are not many now but they are good people, honest and law abiding people.

I am still living in Antlers.