

WALLACE, W. M. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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

WALLACE, W.M. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 4521

Field Worker's name Ruth Lee Gamblin

This report made on (date) June 14 1937

1. Name Mrs. W.M. Wallace

2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) North 18. st

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 5 Year 1885

5. Place of birth Wilbarger, Texas

6. Name of Father Tom Swan Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

es 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 4

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Ruth Lee Gamblin,
Interviewer.

June 14, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. W. M. Wallace,
Frederick, Oklahoma.

I was born in Wilbarger County, Texas, in 1885. My parents were Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Swan. There were seven children in our family. My father had enough Indian blood to draw land if he had just taken the time but in the early days people did not think so much about things like that.

We had a big nice farm in Wilbarger County with a new two story house on it, but Father thought he had much rather live in the Territory so he came over in the early part of 1901 but on account of having this land in Texas, he was not allowed to draw in the opening of Oklahoma Territory. However, he bought a quarter section of land from Dr. Roberts eight miles north of Davidson for \$500.00.

Land was very cheap then because some of the people who drew were disappointed and wanted to return to their homes. You could trade a horse and buggy for a good farm at that time.

My father built a dugout and turned the sod, then returned to Texas after us. We had a large family. There

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were four girls and three boys and as I stated we had a nice house in Texas so we really didn't care to move.

We had a sale and sold most of our furniture as we couldn't live room for it. We moved in two wagons. The boys rode in one wagon and also drove the cattle. Even though we didn't have to go very far we were three days moving. Red River was "up" and we were afraid to cross while it was "up".

You couldn't believe that there could be so much difference in two states. We were so disappointed when we saw Oklahoma. All we could see was prairie grass and tents and I shall never forget our home, just a half dugout with dirt floor and walls. We did not have a rug for the floor, so we children had to gather prairie grass and cover the floor. We only had two beds so Father and Mother had one bed and part of us children slept in the other bed and part on the floor. We went to the river after wood. Mother had a good wood stove to cook on and we also used it for a heater as we only had one big room.

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Soon after we arrived Father and the boys dug a well so we had a good supply of water all the time. Neighbors would come to our well after water.

We were bothered with rattlesnakes the first few years. Soon after we arrived my twin sister was bitten by a rattlesnake. Dr. Roberts lived in a dugout about two miles from us so my oldest brother rode horseback after him; I shall never forget how glad we were to see the doctor. He treated her foot and she soon was well.

Father had to go to Vernon, Texas, after our supplies. He would go about twice a month in the winter sometimes and often he went on horseback. One day he was coming home and a sand storm came up and he got lost and when he discovered where he was he was about twelve miles off his path. We really had a sand storm as we were so close to the river.

At first it was very lonely but soon we began to make friends as the neighbors began to have parties and dances.

In 1804, they organized a literary school, and I

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taught. They had to build a large house as there were so many children to attend. It was named the Hurst school. I do not remember why they gave it this name. I taught twice and then was married to Mr. W. M. Wallace and we moved on his farm which was only a short distance from my father's land. By this time Father had built a house. My husband also had a frame house on his farm. We lived on this farm until 1928 when we moved to Frederick.

Most people say they enjoyed the pioneer days but I can't say that I did because the first two years it was so dry that we couldn't raise anything and it was so different from Texas, but I stayed with it just the same.

My father and mother have only been dead two years.