

WATER, FANNIE.

INTERVIEW

#8748

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
 WAFER, FANNIE INTERVIEW 8748

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) October 1 1937

1. Name Fannie Wafer

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 30 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Kentucky

6. Name of Father J. De Busk Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Mary Idfield Place of birth Kentucky

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 _____

Ruby Wolfenbarger

Interviewer

October 1, 1937

Interview with
Mrs. Fannie Wafer
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in Kentucky, March 30, 1874. I moved with my parents to Oklahoma in about 1901.

Some of our old neighbors and friends had moved here and liked the country so well that my father sold out our home in Kentucky and decided to take up new land out here.

My father came alone and located nine miles west and ^{mile} one/north of Sentinel, then my mother and the rest of us came. We were on the train several days and nights.

We arrived at Elk City early in the morning and my father met us there in a covered wagon. It was twenty-one miles from Elk City to our farm.

My father had bought another man's rights, this cost him more but he liked the location and the soil seemed to be good. The place didn't have any improvements but was just bare prairie.

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My father built a small one room house and while this was being built we camped out in the yard.

We didn't have much furniture in our house, just enough to get along with. My father had a little money but he wanted to buy cattle and other stock with it.

The first two years that we lived there were very prosperous. We raised good crops and lots of vegetables.

I lived there for several years with my parents, then I was married to C. L. Felkner.

Mr. Felkner drew one hundred and sixty acres of land down in the Kiowa country. He went to El Reno to register.

My new home was nine miles northwest of Hobart. I liked the place better than I did my father's; it was a beautiful country. I had one small room to live in but I enjoyed the life very much.

I worked just like a man, putting out fruit trees. We put out three hundred fruit trees the first year

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and when they were three years old we had plenty of fruit. We had a well but the water was very bad and could be used only for the stock.

We raised lots of corn; we had sixty bushels to the acre and that was extra good for those days. We made thirty five bushels of wheat to the acre also one bale of cotton to the acre. We made twenty two bushels of kaffir corn to the acre. I raised lots of tomatoes, peas, beans, melons and sweet-potatoes. I raised heads of cabbage as large as waterbuckets. I raised lots of chickens and ducks. I picked my ducks and made feather beds and pillows.

We got our groceries at Hobart. I also sold eggs and cream at Hobart. We paid 80 cents for a fifty pound sack of flour in those days. I got 6 cents for my eggs in the summer; I got a little more than that in the winter.

We had lots of cyclones, rain and hail storms in the early days.

My husband only lived five years after we were

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married. He was taken sick with typhoid fever and died; the doctors thought that the wells in that community were all full of typhoid fever germs. We didn't have good doctors then as we do now; they didn't know how to fight the fever.

I had one child, a girl, and I sent her to school at Valley View, this was just a small country school.

About the only entertainments that we had were singing schools and church and a few pie suppers.

I lived on that place for about ten years. I still own it but have it rented out. About two years ago my house and barns were destroyed by fire. I had these rebuilt but they are not as large as they were.

I make good crops when we have enough rainfall. I also have a home in Sentinel, where I live with my husband, M. Wafer, and my brother, Howard De Busk.