

WARRICK, ROBERT FIELDEN.

INTERVIEW:

9419

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

WARRICK, ROBERT FIELDEN.

INTERVIEW.

#9419

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) December 9, 1937

Name Robert Fielden Warrick

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) R. R. #2, Box #181.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 19 Year 1879

4. Place of birth Minnesota.

Name of Father Thomas Wiley Warrick Place of birth Virginia.

Name of Mother Ailsey McCoy Warrick Place of birth Virginia.

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 _____

An Interview with Robert Fielden Warrick, Edmond.
By - Mildred E. McFarland, Investigator.
December 9, 1937.

At the time of the Opening of 1889, I was ten years of age and was living with my parents on a farm in Minnesota. It was so bitterly cold there in the winter that my Mother was dissatisfied so Father decided to rent the farm and go to Oklahoma Territory.

We started out in a covered wagon and Father's brother James Warrick, decided to come with us so he and his wife and four children drove another covered wagon. Before starting for the new country we sold all our household furniture, except what we actually needed to bring with us.

On our way we stopped to see my grandfather in southern Iowa and stayed there a week before proceeding on our journey.

We were thirty-three days on the way and arrived in Guthrie on November 5, 1889. We stayed there three days and came on to Edmond and camped in the wagon yard for about four days until we could rent a house. Father then investigated the surrounding country and bought a relinquishment eight miles southwest of Edmond.

There were no improvements on the place, so Father built

a one room house 14 X 24 and spent his first Christmas in the new country putting the shingles on the house. We bought a small cook stove and what few things we could get along with and had our home completely ready before moving in. We carried our water from a neighboring farm about one-half mile away until we could dig a well. We moved in at the beginning of the New Year and after we were settled, Father and I went to the woods and chopped down many trees and cut them up into firewood, preparing enough fuel to last the rest of the winter.

Our main food that first winter was corn pone and beans, with a variation of rabbit and wild turkey; then in the spring we bought a milch cow.

In March we started to prepare the land for planting. We ploughed about forty-five acres which we planted to cotton and corn. We ploughed a few acres close to the house for our vegetable garden. It was a very dry season and we didn't get a very good crop so my father became discouraged and gave up the place and we went back to the farm in Minnesota, driving the same old covered wagon.

We stayed in Minnesota until the Fall of 1895 but were

constantly getting news of the wonderful crops being raised in Oklahoma Territory so we again decided to try our luck there.

We came to the Territory in the same covered wagon and rented a farm seven miles southwest of Edmond where we lived until 1900.

My schooling in Oklahoma Territory was very limited. Our first trip here in 1889 found us without a school but a subscription school was soon started in a neighbor's home. My sister and I started but the first day was the last for the teacher was taken suddenly ill and resigned and the school was not reopened until after we went back to Minnesota.

We attended church in Edmond and a few parties and box socials were held at different homes. We got our mail in Britton. We rode horseback after our supplies and mail.

There were several buffalo wallows on our place and the Chisholm Trail crossed it almost directly in the center.

Quite a few Indians came through the country trading freshly killed deer and wild turkeys for coffee, sugar, flour and cornmeal. These Indians were very friendly and would sometimes give my mother a piece of bright cloth to

make my little sister a dress, or a few bright colored beads.

I was married in 1900 and taking my wife, father^s, mother and sister, moved to a farm near Deer Creek. Then in 1902 I filed on a claim in Tillman County in the opening of the Kiowa and Comanche County.

Father bought a relinquishment just across the road from mine and when we made the trip there we drove two covered wagons and herded twelve head of cattle. It rained most of the trip and the roads were very bad. We ferried the river at Fort Cobb; we camped out at night and it took us a week to make the trip. In crossing the South Canadian River we had to go single file, just a few cattle at a time, then the two wagons and finally the buggy driven by my wife for the bridge was very weak.

After arriving at the place the greatest problem was fire wood for which we had to go twenty-one miles and it took three or four days to make the trip.

Just a few weeks after getting settled in our new home our cattle began to die with Texas fever which discouraged us quite a bit.

I helped to build the first rural school in the community which was near Siboney. There was quite a rift between Siboney and Manitou, a small town about two and one-half miles distant and Siboney was finally abandoned.

I mortgaged my first bale of cotton to buy a lister to plant my crops. We had quite a hard time at first, but being young, never gave the hardships much thought. I still own my place and a one hundred sixty acre farm besides.