

WARREN, SAM A.

INTERVIEW

9715

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

WARREN, SAM. A.

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Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger,

This report made on (date) January 18, 1938

1. Name Sam A. Warren,

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August, Day 18, Year 1856

5. Place of birth Tennessee

6. Name of Father James H. Warren, Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Sara Jane Cook, Place of birth South Carolina.

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 4

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Miss Ruby Wolfenbarger,
Investigator,
January 18, 1938.

Interview with Mr. Sam A. Warren,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I was born in the state of Tennessee, August 18, 1856. I lived in that state until I was past forty-five years of age.

I had three friends in Tennessee, who had moved to the Indian Territory in the early eighties. They had lived in most every part of the country, as they were stockmen. As the farmers crowded in from other places, these men decided they would quit the cattle business and take up land to homestead and farm, because there wasn't land for both cattle ranching and farming. These friends wrote me about what a wonderful place this was and wanted me to come out here.

I had a large family of boys and I was tired of Tennessee, I knew that there was not much future for my children there so I decided to come out here and help my boys get land and homes for themselves. I chartered a car and brought my household goods with me, also my

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stock. I was allowed to bring ten head of cattle but I slipped one in and brought eleven.

We came to Lone Wolf on the train, where we were met by one of my friends who carried us out to his place in a covered wagon. I stayed with him for a few days and looked the country over for a good place to locate.

I found an old bachelor who wanted to sell or rent his place so I leased his claim for five years.

Our first home was a half-dugout and barn. We cooked in the dugout and slept in the barn. We had to drink creek water until we could dig a well. For fuel we had to burn corn, cotton seed and a little wood when we could get it. We didn't have any timber around there except on the creek and we were not allowed to cut that.

My first crops were cotton, corn and feeds. I didn't get out there in time to plant wheat.

In 1908, we had one of the worst hail storms that I have ever seen in this country. It ruined all of the crops and gardens. I planted my cotton over and only got

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three bales from fifty acres. However, I could have gathered more if we boled the cotton then like we do today. All cotton was picked in that day.

There was some wild game when we came here such as turkey, quail, a few antelope and deer. There were lots of fish in the creeks around over the country.

There was a big creek on my place when I first came here; later it dried up and now I have the land in alfalfa. It is very rich soil and produces lots of hay.

We had better schools here at that time than we did in Tennessee. I sent my children to school at Spring Creek. We didn't have any churches here at that time. Just had church in the homes.

We got our groceries at Sentinel and at Port. It was just three miles to Port. We got our mail at Sentinel. The mail carrier brought it out to us once a week.

We had lots of cold weather in the early days. I remember on March 17, 1906, we had a very bad snow storm. The snow drifted ten or twelve feet in the roads and ditches and was about three feet deep on the level ground.

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The snow drifted around our door until we couldn't get out. One of my small children climbed out the window and shoveled the snow away from the door so that we could get out.

I stayed there on that place for about seven years. I then went back to Tennessee. All of my children had homes out here. I only stayed seven months there. I wired my son to buy the place that I had lived on; I knew that it was for sale and the price asked. My son bought it for me and I came back on the next train.

I still own the place. It is seven miles west of Sentinel and three miles from Port. It is one of the best farms in the country.

My three friends passed away in the last year. I went through lots of hardships the first few years that we lived here but I am very proud that I came here to make my home. It was a beautiful country in the early days.