

WELLS, THOMAS

INTERVIEW

9807

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WELLS, THOMAS.

INTERVIEW
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149) 9807

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

313

Field Worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) January 18 1938

1. Name Thomas Wells

2. Post Office Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 26 Year 1845

5. Place of birth Memphis, Tennessee

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 1.

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Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
January 18, 1938

Interview with Thomas Wells,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

I was born June 26, 1845, and came to Kingfisher, or where Kingfisher now stands, six months before the opening of the Territory. I made the run in the opening on April 22, 1889, and then worked in Kingfisher, doing odd jobs, until I got my own store started. I remember so well the first deaths we had. There was no place prepared to bury them, and they were buried in the west corner of the section where Kingfisher now stands; this was a very sad fact. Then the marshal took it up with the Government and the town was allotted the forty acres where the cemetery still stands. Bill McCartney set all the posts and built the fence around the cemetery, and took care of the selling of the twenty-foot lots for seven dollars each. The council then had all the bodies that were buried west of Kingfisher moved to this ground. I helped dig most of the graves during those pioneer days, and when I see the nice cemetery it makes me very proud of our town's interest; that was one of the first things thought of by Kingfisher.