

WICKS, EMMETT.

INTERVIEW

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Carl Sherwood,
Investigator,
Aug. 25, 1937.

Interview with Emmett Wicks,
Webbers Falls, Oklahoma.

John A. Wicks, my uncle, a merchant, farmer and stockman of the early days in the Braggs vicinity, was born in Calhoun County, Mississippi, in 1862. He is a son of John A. and Jane Wicks, also natives of that state. John A. Wicks was a soldier in the Confederate Army and died, leaving a widow and four children, John being the youngest. The oldest son, James, is deceased and is buried in Luskogee. Mrs. Wicks died in 1880.

John A. Wicks received but very little education in his boyhood and after the death of his mother came to the Indian Territory and located near Braggs, which is now in Luskogee County, with six other boys. Each possessed about \$10.00 to pay for their passage on a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen and they walked part of the way as there were no railroads in that part of the country. John A. located at Tahlequah and the first work he did was making fence rails, for which he received his board, room and 75 cents per

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hundred miles. Later, he carried mail for the Government, both by horseback and by stage, beginning in 1881 and continuing until 1884.

At the time of his marriage he became a cowboy and worked with cows for three years, then purchased a farm on the Arkansas River near Braggs, where he reared his family. He purchased the land consisting of one hundred and eighty acres in 1886, only four acres being then under cultivation and the other covered with a heavy cane growth, but at the time present the place has one hundred and seven acres under cultivation and is well improved. He also owned several other farms along the river bottoms.

In 1905 John A. moved into Braggs and engaged in the mercantile business in which he met with good success. He erected the first brick building in Braggs, of two stories, with offices on the second floor, he also has the distinction of ginning the first bale of cotton in Tahlequah and he was extensively engaged in buying and selling cattle. He is the winner of his own prosperity and fortune, being a self-made man of the truest sense and he not only owned extensive farmlands but also a large amount of property in the town of

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Braggs on part of which his nice home is situated. He was not an office-seeker and has never filled an elective office.

In 1884 John A. was married to Lizzie Hildebrand, of Cherokee descent, a granddaughter of Joseph Hildebrand, and to this union four children were born, George, John, Nancy and one deceased.