

WILLIAMS, LILLIE.

INTERVIEW.

10168

377

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

378

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INTERVIEW

10168,

Field worker's name LOUISE S. BARNES.

This report made of (date) March 3, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Lillie Williams

Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma

This person is (male) or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

Early home life in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Country.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Louise S. Barnes.
Investigator.
March 2, 1938.

Interview with Lillie Williams,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

"EARLY HOME LIFE IN THE CHEYENNE
AND ARAPAHO COUNTRY"

I was born in Saline County, Illinois, on February 27, 1869, and came to Oklahoma on September 11, 1892. The year before coming I spent in Kansas by myself on the farm, my husband being in Kingfisher making plans to make the run in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Opening.

I was glad to get to Oklahoma because my husband was carried away with the climate and the opportunity the new state offered us, so I wanted to get to our new home which was a dugout that my husband had built while waiting for his family to arrive. We were bringing with us a good many horses and they were not used to such long trips and we lost several on the road from Kansas, so we did not arrive as soon as he had expected us.

We arrived in Kingfisher one evening and made the trip to our new home. It was a real experience to come from a nice home and try to live in a dugout without even a door that would

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open. The Indians trail ran along the side of our home and at first we were very scared but after they found out we wanted to be friendly, and we learned that they would do us no harm, we did quite a bit of trading with them. We raised lots of sweet potatoes, corn, watermelons and peanuts, and they traded for these from us.

The dugout was 16 by 13 feet and we cooked on a camp fire, using a Dutch oven to cook our bread in, and our beds were made from carpenter horses and straw ticks. It wasn't too bad but if we just look back we see how we really sacrificed to build this state for our children.

The hardest trip I ever made was when I came from Kansas to this state to our homestead. There was no road and we would have the biggest bumps to go over, maybe one wheel in a ditch and the others on a hill, I thought we would never live to see this beautiful country but now I know it was the sweetest trip I ever expect to make.