

WILLIAMS, A. C.

INTERVIEW

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

Report made on (date) August 26 1937

Name A. C. Williams

Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) Second Street

DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 5 Year 1864

Place of birth Bentonville, Arkansas, in Benton County

Name of Father S. N. Williams Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Born March 18, 1839, Blacksmith

Name of Mother Arminda Duckworth Place of birth Beckham County, Georgia

Other information about mother Housekeeper

es or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story
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
sets attached _____.

" I am past seventy-three years old and have experienced many hardships in the early days of Oklahoma.

I came to this country with my family, consisting of my wife and six children, on October 15, 1898, and bought land from a man who had settled on a hundred and sixty acres on Steel Dust Creek. We made our file claims at once and "proved up" on it in Theodore Roosevelt's administration.

I gave ninety dollars in cash and a team of small mules for the place; the mules were valued at fifty dollars each.

That left me with one team of mules and about sixty dollars which was spent for flour, sorghum, and barbed wire to fence the farm. These supplies were brought from El Reno.

There was a large dugout on the farm and five acres of the land was sodded down to kaffir corn.

In the spring of '89, eighty acres of land was sodded down to feed, cotton and corn, the corn making forty bushels to the acre.

One day during the winter of '89, I was to go

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to Cloud Chief, twenty-five miles away, to pay my taxes. A friend had promised to come by in his wagon but was delayed. I started on thinking the friend would catch me. However, we missed each other on the road and so I made the trip in one day by walking and running.

My first cotton was ginned ^{at} Reno. Later, when the Rock Island Railroad came through Washita and Kiowa Counties a gin was erected at Mountain View and for two years I ginned all my cotton there. We would pick cotton until we got a bale and then go to the gin at night.

During the two years I had twenty bales of cotton ginned at Mountain View.

The second year we were here, I had the measles and came near losing my sight. I spent many hours worrying about what would happen to my family if I should lose my sight.

My children attended school over on Elk Creek until the population justified the organization of District No. 70 which I helped to organize. I served as a member of the school board the first year after the school district was organized.

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I lived on this place thirteen years and although I bought a place closer to Sentinel, and later. a home in town, I still own the first home that I filed on.


