

WILSON; J. B.

INTERVIEW

#9315

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

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WILSON, J. B.

INTERVIEW.

9515.

Field Worker's name Maurice B. Anderson

This report made on (date) November 24, 1937

1. Name Mrs. J. B. Wilson,

2. Post Office Address Mayaville, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 8 Year 1861

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father Charley Worley Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father deceased.

7. Name of Mother Martha Criner Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about mother deceased.

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 Five.

WILSON, J. P. (M)

INTERVIEW

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Memphis, Tennessee
Investigation
November 24, 19

Interview with Mrs. J. P. Wilson
Memphis, Tennessee

I was born in 1881 in Texas. I came to the Indian Territory with my father and mother in 1877. We moved from Texas to the Griner Ranch located about nine miles northwest of where Kayaville is now. We came through in a wagon; at that time there were no railroads coming into the Indian Territory from Texas.

The Griner Ranch was owned by my mother's brother, George Griner. My uncle had written for my father to come and work on his ranch. After we were settled at his ranch my father went to work for Uncle George as hard boss; there was no land in cultivation on the ranch except the garden spot.

The first year we were here my father turned under forty acres of land and put it in corn, all people raised in those days were cattle and small gardens.

There was no school then for the children to go to and the young boys and girls were brought up mostly in

WITNESS

RECORDED

1881

the saddle. I have ridden over the prairie with my father just like one of the cowhands helping to drive cattle; we never were bothered by the Indians or cattle thieves, but the prairie would fill a stage every day or so.

We lived on a big creek and not far from the Washita River; later this creek was named Oliver Creek after my uncle, George Oliver.

I remember several times when the Indians would come to our log house and peep through the cracks, but

my mother was not afraid of them. When she would go to the door they would try to talk to her; their faces would be painted and they always carried tomahawks in their hands. Sometimes Mother would give them a big piece of beef as there always was plenty of beef or deer in our smoke house and as soon as she would give them something to eat they would go away.

In the early days I learned to ride, rope and handle a rifle like a man. When I was about seven-
 teen years old I have ridden fifteen to twenty miles

to a den. Then the families living in this part
of the county lived with their cattle on the banks of the river
or along some large creek where there was running water.

There were a few farms in cultivation along the
river where Pauls Valley is now, but the people living
around in this part of the country were cattle raisers.
My father and Uncle George would drive cattle to Fort
Smith, Arkansas, to market and my father would make a
trip to Sherman, Texas, about twice a year for supplies.
He would go in a wagon and sometimes it would take two

to three weeks to make the trip, but time would be lost

or short just according to the weather. Then, there
were no roads or bridges across the river. There were
no fences to speak of around over this part of the coun-
try. Where a small patch of land was in cultivation
there would be a log rail fence around it and the prairies
were covered with prairie grass from knees to waist high.
A horseback rider would have to stand up in his stirrups
to see the cattle grazing along the river.

WILSON, J. D. 1890

1890/11

0311

There were very few trees along the river and
across those days and what few there were you could
see for miles away

In 1890 I was married to a young man who owned a
ranch just west of the Red Rock store which was owned
by John Mays. We were married under the Chickasaw In-
dian law and we had to pay \$50.00 to the Chickasaw Gov-
ernment; this \$50.00 made us citizens of the Chickasaw
Nation and gave us a right to all the land we wanted to
control.

~~My husband's father owned about ten thousand~~

and we had cattle ranging from the Washita river to the
Arbuckle Mountains.

Our ranch house was a double log house and my hus-
band always kept five or six cowhands all the time. After
we were married I never did any work helping with the
cattle as it took all my time cooking for the cowhands.
I still own my side saddle that I bought in 1893.

In the early '90's my father moved to Erin Springs
and went to farming. At that time my husband would

WILSON, J. R. (11)

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1911

had my supplies from Texas and I had to make my
 supplies somewhere so would be out for 3 days. I was
 always afraid for my husband to go to the bank
 as I would have to make it in case he could not
 stay with my father until my husband returned from Texas
 The neighbors would have to do their own cooking and
 I would come home. It would take two or three days to get
 things cleaned up

The first church that I went to in the Indian Ter-
 ritory was a log church house at Wolf Creek in 1875

Old Wolf Creek is now called Mayaville

I now live at Mayaville. I have lived in and
 around here since 1875.