

WOOLRIDGE, HAMPTON

INTERVIEW.

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Interview with Hampton Erwin
Wooldridge by Mary J. Stockton.
April 12, 1937

FATHER:

Robert L. Wooldridge, who was born near Cherokee City, Benton County, Arkansas, in April, 1872, was the son of Hampton and Amada Wooldridge, natives of the State of Illinois.

MOTHER:

Laura (Harper) Wooldridge, daughter of Garland P. and Cynthia Janeway Harper, born on or near the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line, December 22, 1853. Her parents, Hiram and Sally (Ward) Janeway, came for Georgia in 1846.

Hampton Erwin Wooldridge was born near Cherokee City (on the Arkansas-Oklahoma line) January 12, 1896. Spent his childhood days in what is now Delaware County, Oklahoma and attended rural (neighborhood) schools and the Public High School at Cherokee City, where he graduated when about 17 years old.

He soon after came to Rogers County, Oklahoma, stopping for a time with relatives at Foyil, later coming to Claremore where he entered the Eastern Oklahoma Preparatory School (now Oklahoma Military Academy), paying his expenses by waiting table and washing dishes in

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Claremore restaurants.

In November, 1922, he was united in Marriage with Miss Dewey Picaman, by whom he has one child, "Bobby," now 13 years old and a Sophomore in the local high school. For five years Mr. Wooldridge has been a teacher in the rural schools of Rogers County, beginning at Cowala he has taught at Midway, Washington, Inola, Langley and Harmony-Star schools. His wife attended the latter school during her girlhood and he was employed as teacher there at the time of their marriage. Harmony Star school was built on a part of her parental homestead.

MRS. WOOLDRIDGE:

Her father, John Picaman, is well^a known pioneer resident of Rogers County, a native of Kentucky. He came to this country more than half a century ago and was married at Vinita to a Miss Payne of Cherokee blood. Soon after their marriage, they located where he now lives, the wife and mother died about 1910. Mr. Picaman has lived there for more than fifty years. His daughter, Mrs. Wooldridge, was born there in 1900.

Hampton E. Wooldridge has attended Northeastern Oklahoma Teachers' College at Tahlequah during summer

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terms for several years and is now (May 12, 1937) making arrangements to enter that institution in a few weeks, hoping to attain his degree. He has but recently completed a successful term of school at "Midway" in Mayes County--between Inola and Chouteau.

Although he has a shriveled arm, caused by Infantile Paralysis, Mr. Wooldridge has, by his own efforts, secured an education and occupies a prominent place in the rural school history of Rogers County. He is said to be one of the best disciplinarians in the entire country; is ambitious and industrious and hopes to advance in his chosen profession, a Country School Teacher.
