

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

MINTON, J. L.

INTERVIEW.

10443.

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger.This report made on (date) April 14, 1938. 19381. Name Mr. J. L. Minton.2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 22 Year 1870.5. Place of birth Illinois.6. Name of Father W. J. Minton. Place of birth Tennessee.Other information about father Farmer.7. Name of Mother Sara Beck. Place of birth Illinois.Other information about mother Housewife.

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 _____.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,
Investigator,
April 14, 1938.

An Interview With J. L. Minton,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came to the Indian Territory in March, 1888, from Texas. I came with my parents; there were nine children. We came through in two wagons. We didn't bring any stock on that trip. We were on the road about six days.

We located in the Chickasaw Nation, twelve miles northwest of Ardmore. We took up an Indian lease. We cleared the land and built a small one room log house; we didn't have time to build any more. We didn't have any place to stay while we were building except in our wagons and cooked over a camp fire. Eleven of us lived in one room for two years.

We built a pen for our horses and for our chickens; these were made out of poles. We broke part of the land and planted corn just as soon as we could. In May we went back to Texas and got our cattle; we had about sixty head at that time.

In the early day, each settler could have just as much land as he could use. It was all free range. The

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cattle were turned out on the range. There were lots of cattle here but the dirt farmers were pushing in from all states. We lived there for several years then we moved forty miles north of the Arbuckle Mountains. There was lots of timber here--blackjack, post oak, elm, cottonwood and cedar trees.

There were also fish in all the streams around there.

Our nearest neighbor was about five miles from us; we didn't see them very often. We did most of our trading at Ardmore, which at that time was a very small place.

I moved to Elmore and lived neighbors to W. O. Lowry for several years. We spent lots of our time hunting over in the mountains and fishing. There were lots of wild berries and plums along the river and on the creek. When times were extra hard and money was scarce we lived on cornbread three times a day; our coffee was made from okra seed and corn.

In 1903 I moved to the Seminole country and took up Indian land. The country was very rough; the land had never been cultivated; the country was new. You could see a few log cabins and a few small herds of cattle

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grazing out on the prairie. The Seminole Indians lived there. They were a very lazy tribe of Indians; they wouldn't talk to the white settlers. Some of them had small tracts of land in cultivation; they planted corn and melons. In the early day we could buy all the corn we wanted for fifteen and twenty-five cents per bushel.

I have land at Conway, Oklahoma, I have spent the winter here in Sentinel with my friend, W. O. Lowry.