

CAUDILL, WILLIE M.

INTERVIEW

#9429

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
CAUDILL, WILLIE M. INTERVIEW 9429

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Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) December 15 1937

1. Name Willie M. Caudill

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 3 Year 1891

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father Jim Henderson Place of birth Texas

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Sarah Reams Place of birth Alabama

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 _____.

Ruby Wolfenbarger
Investigator
December 15, 1937

Interview with
Willie M. Caudill
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma with my parents in 1902, from
Ells County, Texas. We came by train part of the way.

We located at Sayre, in the southwestern part of
the state. Sayre was just a rag town at that time.
It had one hotel, one dry goods store, a blacksmith
shop, grocery store and post office. None of the build-
ings were painted and none of them except the hotel were
two stories high.

That part of the country was just prairie, no trees
except near the river and the creek. It was an ideal
place for cattle.

My father rented land, about eighty acres, out
twelve miles from Sayre.

Our first home was a two room half dugout and had
three half slide windows in one room and one window in
the other. We had a hard dirt floor.

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We had a good well of water near the house. Our fuel was about the only real problem that we had in the early days. We didn't have any wood, except on the river and creek and it took about all day to cut a load of wood, which only lasted about three days.

My father planted cotton, corn, kaffir and feed-stuff. We sold our cotton for about 9 or 10 cents and we got \$1.00 per bushel for our corn although not many farmers planted corn at that time. We also planted peanuts and sold them for \$1.00. We made lots of extra money this way.

We had two cows which furnished us plenty of good wholesome milk and butter. We also had chickens and hogs.

About the only fruits or preserves that we had were little yellow or bell tomatoes; my mother preserved these and as we didn't have any fruit jars she put them up in jugs and sealed them with sealing wax.

We got our mail out every morning from the Cheyenne mail stage coach.

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In the early times our best dresses were made out of dark blue outing cloth; we traded butter and eggs for the outing cloth which was worth about nine cents per yard. We wore coarse grey stockings and buttoned shoes.

Our entertainments were Sunday School socials, ice cream suppers, box suppers and pie suppers, also dances in the winter. The boys would take the wagon bed off the wheels and use the bed for a sled. We drove two horses, put hay in the wagon bed, took plenty of quilts and robes to cover with, and some married couple would go with us.

We went to Cheyenne to lots of cowboy celebrations and picnics.

We had school in a two story frame building which was also used for a church.

I have lived around Sayre and this part of the country since I was about twelve years of age.