



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

98-

MORRIS, VIRGINIA FRANCIS.

INTERVIEW.

4336.

Field Worker's name Buby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) June 8, 1937

1. Name Virginia Francis Morris

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 1 Year 1899

5. Place of birth Haley, Tennessee

6. Name of Father G. C. Hoosier Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Carpenter

7. Name of Mother Ett Jane Eneey Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother was an active christian.

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 4.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,  
Field Worker  
June 8, 1937.

Interview with Virginia Francis Morris  
Sentinel, Oklahoma  
Born December 1, 1899.  
Father-G. G. Hoosier  
Mother-Etta Jane Eneey .

I came to Oklahoma on January 1, 1907, and landed at Hobart, which was then called Oklahoma Territory. I was then seven years of age, and came with my father, mother, uncle, aunt, and an old negro servant, whom my grandparents had brought with them from Tennessee.

We came to Oklahoma from Texas, and made the trip on the train.

Our first settlement was near Rocky, where we lived with our relatives until we could get our own home built.

Our first home was a three room boxed house, with two porches. We also had one small room for the negro servant. We hauled the lumber for our home from Hobart, Oklahoma.

Our furniture was about the same as all pioneers had in those days, consisting mostly of beds, tables, chairs, and stoves. We also had a few dishes that we had brought with us.

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The water at our place was very hard, and could not be used for the family laundry unless it was broken with lye. It was hard on the hands then, often chapping them.

For fuel we used wood that the men cut off the banks of the creek, also some that had drifted down the creek. We bought a small amount of coal, which we hauled from Hobart.

My father was a carpenter and worked out for one dollar per day. If the person hiring him could not pay for the work, he would take meat, lard, wood, and all kinds of food stuff in exchange for his labor.

Our farm was the first in that community that had a fence around it. We planted a large orchard the first year we had our own farm. We sent back to Texas for the trees. We got lots of fruit from these trees, and canned nearly all of it for winter.

Our first crop was mostly wheat. We had planned to come to Oklahoma and get rich from our wheat, because we had heard so much about it. We planted a small crop of cotton, but we didn't make a very big profit from this, as

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our soil was not suited to that kind of crop. We raised one of the finest gardens in the country. We had all we could use ourselves, and took vegetables, milk, butter, and eggs to Hobart and peddled them out. We made our first trip there in a buggy, and it took us about five hours to make the drive.

We did not have much live stock. We used a team that belonged to our relatives, and had two cows, lots of turkeys and chickens of our own. We took our turkeys and chickens to Hobart and sold them for a good price.

Our main foods were vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, and meat, which we brought from Texas with us. In the winter we would usually kill a calf; we had corn meal, which we would take to a grist mill and have ground. The owner of the mill would take half of the meal for pay. This was called "Toll Mill".

We got all of our other supplies from Hobart and at the Rock Store, which was located at Rocky.

The Indian and the white settlers were all on good terms. On the Fourth of July the Indians would always help

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the whites celebrate. One time "Lone Wolf", a noted chieftain, came to Sentinel for the fourth of July celebration, bringing with him his daughter, who had been sent back east to the white man's school to be educated. Both were dressed in their native costume. Lone Wolf would talk in his native tongue, and his daughter would interpret it so the whites would know what he was saying. Lone Wolf was a kind, peace loving Indian, and he said that he was glad that the red men and the white men were friends and did not fight as they did in the past. The town of Lone Wolf was named in honor of this old chieftain.

Game was very plentiful. The settlers would get together and go to the river and stay all night and fish. There were all kinds of fish in those days. They would build their fire in the stump of an old tree, which had been cut down for wood.

I now have in my possession several dishes, trunks, an old fashioned dresser, which my grandparents moved from Tennessee to Texas and then into Oklahoma with them.