

~~LOWRY, W. O.~~

INTERVIEW

#10442

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

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Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger.

This report made on (date) April 13, 1938. 1938

1. Name Mr. W. O. Lowry.

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 12 Year 1871.

5. Place of birth Mississippi.

6. Name of Father John Lowry Place of birth Mississippi.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Etta Reeves. Place of birth Mississippi.

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 4.

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Ruby Wolfenbarger,
Investigator,
April 13, 1938.

An Interview With W. O. Lowry,
Sentinel, Oklahoma.

I came with my parents, John and Etta Lowry, to the Territory in March, 1890. We moved from Texas. We had two wagons and brought about one hundred fifty goats with us. We had several boys with us who helped with the goats. We left Texas because of the drought down there and we didn't have enough land. We thought that we could do so much better up here in the new country. We were on the road about three weeks; progress was very slow with the goats as we let them graze a few hours each day. Grass was very plentiful. We got lost several times; the roads were just cow trails across the prairie. We saw lots of wild game as we crossed the country; deer, rabbit, coon, opossum and wild turkey. We also saw lots of wild cats and fox.

My father bought an Indian lease, I think it was about one hundred acres, at Elmore City in the southern part of the state. Our first home was a two-room log house with

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a fireplace, and a small half-dugout covered with poles and split cottonwood boards. Our beds were just poles and boards made into the walls; our mattress was made of straw. We cooked over the fireplace with a skillet and lid. Our dishes were tin. Our tables and chairs were home-made.

We had a good well of water near the house. We burned wood; we cleared the land just as fast as we could. This was a timbered country and we had to clear the land before we could plant our crops. We broke our land and planted corn and a garden just as soon as we could, but ~~didn't have very much luck with it. We had about ten head~~ of horses. We older boys worked out, plowing for our close neighbors when we could. We had to furnish our team and got seventy-five cents per day. Times were very hard with ~~us at that time; we put what money we had into our land and~~ we didn't have any to live on. We didn't have any schools or churches for about three years after we came up here.

We lived about nine years there. In 1899 we decided to sell out and come out here. We had two wagons and one buggy to make ~~this~~ trip. We sold our goats before we left;

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grass was very scarce and the other settlers didn't like them. We got lost and ~~were~~ off the road for several days; the creeks were up and the bridges were washed out. We used up all of our food and were without anything to eat except rabbit and cornmeal cooked without salt for three days. We came upon a ranch house and asked for food. We stayed with them for three days and nights; when we left they gave us a side of meat, lard, flour, sugar, coffee and potatoes and would not take any pay for them.

We located at Delhi, in the western part of Oklahoma.

I filed on land at Mangum; this cost me about six dollars.

We lived in a half-dugout about 8 x 10. We nearly starved the first two years that we lived out here. We didn't

have any season for crops. Our principal crop out here

was cotton. We had to haul this twenty-five miles to get

it ginned; sometimes it took a week to get it ginned. We

had to sell our cows one at a time to get money to live

on. I hauled freight from Vernon, Texas, for two years.

We took four wagons with four horses to each wagon; we

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had to furnish our teams and feed. We had lots of high water to cross. Each wagon had two men. We hauled flour, sugar and lumber. Our pay was very small; we got one dollar per hundred pounds to our part. I lived at Delhi for several years then sold out and bought land near Sentinel.