

Harvest Time in 1908

Read the following paragraph written by Harold William Wood about the Harvest Time photograph below (the same photograph used in 2005's Archives Week poster). In his own words, he describes the photograph and tells about growing up on a farm in Oklahoma almost 100 years ago.



"In this photograph I am standing in front of my mother near the center. I am only about three years old in this picture.

"The wagonload of cotton displayed here would probably yield a five hundred pound bale which would be sold for cash. The cotton seed would be ground up for cattle feed. It was especially nutritious and good when sprinkled with cotton seed meal. Cotton was the main cash crop for the Wood family, however, other crops played an important role in the family economy. These consisted of peanuts, cow peas, sorghum cane, corn, milo maze, melons, oats and wheat.

"To promote cooperation of each family member as a unit, each member was allotted a specified plot of ground to be used for a crop of his choosing. This was usually cotton or corn.

"Proceeds from the small plot of cotton assigned to me for which I was personally responsible were sufficient to purchase my first suit of clothing for \$13.00, when I was 13 years old! I paid cash only on the promise that a tie was included with my new suit. When I was a senior in high school my five acre plot yielded enough baled cotton to provide cash for my first new car --a 1926 Chevrolet Touring car at the purchase price of \$600.00.

"Each member of our family was pressed into family service at an early age. I recall the chicken wire pen which held the newly picked cotton until it was loaded on the wagon to go to the gin. This pen had a double purpose. It served as quarters for babysitting. I served as babysitter in this fluffy filled structure which offered unlimited romping and a soft bed on which to sleep when play turned to sleepiness."

How many pounds of cotton are in the wagon? _____

How was the cotton seed used? _____

List the crops important to the Wood family: _____

What is a cotton gin? _____

Define the word "sufficient." Use a thesaurus and provide 2 synonyms. _____

Write this sentence another way: "I served as babysitter in this fluffy filled structure which offered unlimited romping and a soft bed on which to sleep when play turned to sleepiness" _____



Primary or Secondary



Sources About Farmers

Identify the following sources of information about farmers as Primary or Secondary by circling the correct letter. Remember, some can be either one.

- P S A farmer's letter to his mother.
- P S A biography of a farmer.
- P S A photograph of a barn.
- P S An interview with a farmer on television.
- P S An encyclopedia article about agriculture.
- P S A magazine article about the history of farming.
- P S A map of counties where cotton is farmed.
- P S An autobiography of a farmer.
- P S A textbook about farming.
- P S A website about farming.
- P S A newspaper article about crops.

Explain why you might want to use a primary source to learn about a topic:

Photograph Analysis Worksheet

Select a photograph and look at it carefully. Answer as many of these questions as you can.

What is the subject of the photograph? What activity or event is shown in the photograph?

When and where was the photograph taken? How can you tell?

Who are the people in the photograph? What can you tell about them from their clothing or their expressions? What relationship do the people seem to have with each other?

What do you think happened before the photograph was taken? What do you think happened after the photograph was taken?

Why do you think this photograph was taken? What question would you like to ask the photographer or the subjects?
