

McCASLAND, LIZZIE. INTERVIEW

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

MCCASLAND, LIZZIE

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Ruth Kerbo

This report made on (date) April 22, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Lizzie McCasland

2. Post office Address Mangum, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) East Grant St., 329

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 20 Year 1893

5. Place of birth Henderson, Texas

6. Name of Father Mike Maloney Place of birth Texas

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Evellyn York Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother _____

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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Ruth Kerbo,
Field Worker,
April 22, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Lizzie McCasland,
329 East Grant St., Mangum, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Lizzie McCasland came to Greer County in 1894 when she was one year old.

There were eight children in the family. The father and older children came in a covered wagon with only a camping outfit. A family by the name of Thompson came with them but did not remain in the country.

Mrs. McCasland came with her mother and the other small children on the train to Quanah. Her father met them with the wagon and team to bring their baggage and the supplies they needed to begin their existence in Greer County.

Mrs. McCasland's uncle, Frank York, rented a place for them north of Mangum on the Elm River. Mr. York lived on the opposite side of the river. He had been in the country for several years.

There was a dugout on the place and this the family used as their abode. Later a one room house was constructed

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with a shed room on one side. They had no furniture except what the family constructed of drygoods boxes. A dining table, which was homemade, a small cook stove, borrowed from Mr. York. They brought their bedding with them from Henderson, Texas, and managed to get some bedssteads in a short time.

Their first crop was hard to make as they had to buy feed for their team and money was very scarce. Food was also hard to get for such a large family. But with their milch cows and a large number of chickens for meat and eggs they managed to live.

Corn on the cob, cottonseed and cow chips were used for fuel their first years in this country.

One day Mrs. McCasland went to Mangum in a buggy, drawn by one horse, to get supplies for the family.

She had to ford the river at the crossing near their home. She noticed as she crossed on the way to town that the river was getting pretty well filled with red water, but being only fourteen years of age did not realize that the river would be at flood stage very soon. She thought

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she could make the trip to town and back before it would be dangerous to cross, but when she came back the river was bank full. She put her groceries upon the buggy seat and drove off into the rolling red water and her horse began to swim, and made the trip across safely.

Mrs. McCasland recalls that the first car she ever saw was driven by a doctor from Mangum. She and her brother, being quite young, would lie in the grass by the side of the road and throw stones at the vehicle when it passed. It resembled a buggy with high wheels.

Mrs. McCasland's mother died in 1907 and was buried at Brinkman as there was no other cemetery near. After her death, Lizzie had most of the responsibility of the home. Later the family moved to Brinkman and farmed there three years. Her father helped build the M.K. & T. Railroad through Brinkman.

At Brinkman, there was no drinking water obtainable on the place so the family had to haul water from a neighbor five miles away.

Later yet the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the father died and was buried there.

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After the death of her father, Mrs. McCasland moved to Muskogee where she married Walter Lindsey and they moved to Caddo, and farmed a place owned by Mr. Cubberson, an Indian.

There were lots of Indians in the country around Caddo and Mrs. Lindsey's nearest neighbor was an Indian. This particular Indian man was fond of whiskey and every few days he would get drunk and beat his wife terribly. The Indian woman would come over to Mrs. Lindsey's house and tell her that she was afraid of her husband when he was drinking.

Mrs. Lindsey's husband died and left her with three girls and one boy. The boy was quite young when his father died.

Mrs. Lindsey then married G. T. McCasland and moved to Mangum where she now lives. Her two older girls are married and the youngest girl who is seventeen years of age has finished high school.

Mrs. McCasland is now a widow and has been working in the sewing room here at Mangum. She keeps a cow and sells surplus milk and butter.