

SEARS, LAURA TYNER.

INTERVIEW

13639

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## BIOGRAPHY FORM

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

## Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Jarvis TynerThis report made on (date) April 18 19381. Name Laura Tyner Sears2. Post Office Address Ochelata, Oklahoma. R. R. #1.3. Residence address (or location) One half mile east and two-one-half miles south and one half miles east.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 29 Year 18845. Place of birth On North Double Creek. Tyner farm. There was no town of Ochelata then.6. Name of Father Reuban R. Tyner Place of birth Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Fourteen Mile Creek  
Other information about father Civil War Veteran, Methodist Minister.7. Name of Mother Almyra Virginia Irons. Place of birth Chillicothe Missouri.Other information about mother Married 1868, July third. Was the oldest settler in Indian Territory living until 1936, came here when three months old.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 6.

Jarvis Tyner  
Interviewer  
April 18, 1938

Interview with Laura Tyner Sears  
R. R. #1, Okemeta, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Sears was the daughter of R. R. and Almyra Tyner. She was born on North Double Creek on the Tyner farm. She stayed at home and helped with the house until she was married. She attended Hillside Mission and never went to town (Bartlesville being the closest town then) until she was sixteen years old. She was one-eighth Cherokee Indian and received an allotment which she still owns and which is her present home.

#### Allotment

The family of children and their parents went to Vinita and tried to file for an allotment, but later had to go over to Tahlequah.

#### Bridges

There was one toll bridge on Caney River. It either was state or county owned. She remembered crossing it many times.

#### Camp Meetings

The South Methodist people had camp meetings on Double Creek. All of her brothers and sisters went to these and she recalled how when dinner was eaten at these camp meetings;

being a child she had to wait until all of the grown people had been served and usually the children had to do without. Her Father, R. R. Tyner, was a Methodist preacher, but not ordained.

#### Cherokee Payment

Being a Cherokee she was paid a sum of money from the sale of a part of the Cherokee land. This amounted to three hundred and sixty five dollars apiece or they could have taken one hundred and sixty acres of land in that country.

#### Churches

Her father built a Methodist Church, the present site of which is their family graveyard, where he is buried. His grave was placed where the Altar was in the church. This was the first Methodist Church in this part of the country. Circuit Riders--Preachers would be called this because they would come to a church and then travel by horseback, usually, to another church.

#### Civil War

R. R. Tyner, her father, served in the Civil War in the Southern Army.

Mrs. Sears' parents were emigrants from Georgia. Almyra Tyner, her mother, was three months old when they came to Indian Territory. Their home was used for a camping place. If it was anyways near sundown people would stop <sup>because</sup> there was a creek nearby--either they would stay all night in their house or camp. The Cherokee strip immigrants went by their place in wagon trains. One saw the famous woman outlaw known as Belle Starr, who had a Winchester strapped to her belt and who with companions made camp on a nearby creek.

#### Enrollment

The Tyners went to Tahlequah to enroll for payment due them. There they also enrolled to be eligible for allotment.

#### Cemetery

The piece of ground set aside by the Government for the Tyner Family Cemetery consisted of one-half acre of land. There are six graves therein. It is located in section twelve, township two ty-four, range twelve.

#### Farming

Farming was her father's chief occupation. Their farming land was fenced with rail fences, split by their own father.

Also on their farm there was an abundance of blue stem grass which was used for hay. If it was left to grow its full growth, it would reach to a height of eight feet. Farming is also their own present occupation.

#### Ferry

There was a ferry at Little Reuban Tyner, on the Caney River. This place was near the present bridge that crosses that section line near Reuban Tyner's place. Drayton Davis and Reuban Tyner operated the ferry.

#### Fords

There was a ford by the name of John Carter Ford on the Miller farm. It was located about four miles south of the present town of Oglesby on the Caney River.

#### Frontier Towns

Talala was a frontier town, also Bartlesville and Pawhuska. These towns are still in existence.

#### Ghost Towns

The town of Ringo is no longer in existence. There was also a town by the name of Austin, but it is no longer in existence.

### Agency Sites

Pawhuska was the Osage Agency--Muskogee was the Agency for the Five Tribes. Her brother Emmett went over to the Osage Agency and worked for an Osage Indian and made fence for him. The fence was made of split rails.

### Missions

There was an Indian Mission located at Hillside. This mission is six miles south and seven miles west of the present town of Ramona. One of the early teachers and ministers was John J. Griffith and his wife Minnie. This mission was called Friends Hillside Mission. She and her husband both attended this mission before they were married.

### Newspapers

The Tyners subscribed for the Vinita Chieftain, Our Brother in Red, published at Muskogee, the Muskogee Phoenix and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### Outlaws

Cherokee Bill was part Indian and negro. He and Henry Starr robbed John Carter's store, which was located across the river from old Ringo. Mrs. Sears' brother-in-law worked in the store at the time it was robbed. He had money on his

body at the time. Belle Starr was a noted woman outlaw and there also was the Green Gang.

#### Post Office ( no longer in existence)

The Ringo and Austin post offices are no longer in existence. Austin was located three miles west and one mile north of Ramona. Ringo post office was located three and one-half miles north and three and one-half miles east of the town of Ramona.

#### Salt Spring

There was a salt spring at Salina and Salt Plains in the Cherokee Strip where the Indians used to go and bring salt back in barrels.

#### Schools

For Indian students the Government provided a Male and Female Seminary located at Tahlequah. There was a subscription school which was located near the Twin Mounds. The first teacher was Emma Cooper. Another teacher was Alice Williamson. Mrs. Sears' father built a schoolhouse on Double Creek near their family cemetery. Henry East was one of the early teachers. Another early teacher was Chasberry, Anna Sandford, and Fannie Tyner, daughter of R. R. Tyner, taught there, too.