

SLOAN, NAOMI A.

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name James R. Carselowey
This report made on (date) April 7, 1938. 193

1. Name Naomi A. Sloan.
2. Post Office Address Big Cabin, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) _____
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1855
5. Place of birth McDonald County
Missouri.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____
7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____
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 Three.

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Carselowey, James R.- Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
April 7, 1938.

Interview with Naomi A. Sloan.
Big Cabin, Oklahoma.

My name is Naomi A. (Cole) Sloan. I was born in McDonald County, Missouri, on December 25, 1855. I received my education at Southwest City. My parents were both white, and we were living near the Territory line, from the time I was born. I was six years old when the war broke out, and we remained in Missouri during the period of the war.

There were no Pin Indians in our part of the country, but there were a few bushwhackers that made life miserable for us during the war. The notorious Quantrell gang operated from where we lived back north into Kansas, and their depredations were many. They stole and drove off stock, robbed and did everything that would make life uncertain.

After the war my parents moved over into the Indian Territory, and my father was looking after a small tract of land, that belonged to a young man who lived in Goingsnake district, by the name of Edward E. Sloan. He kept on coming up to look after the place, (for an excuse) and finally he asked my father if he could take me back to

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Goingsnake with him.

We were married on June 8, 1874, and I went back with him and we lived there a few years and then moved back to his place, on Cowskin prairie. There was no house on his land and he bought a little log cabin, near his place, and we lived in that until our family got so large it would not hold them. There was only one room to the cabin, and it had a chimney on one end made of logs.

We are the parents of ten children, three boys and seven girls. They are: Jennie Deborah, Will, Della, Anna May, Sam, Eva, James, Nina Pearl, Florence Christine and Minnie.

Times were awfully hard, when we were raising up our large family, and if it had not been for the Cherokee payments, that were made every few years, I do not know how we would have made it.

It was after one of these payments, that we were able to build a new frame house, which was not at all an expensive one. We secured oak lumber from a saw-mill and built one large room, with a shed room, and we raised our ten children in those two rooms, until the big Strip payment was made. That was in 1894, just before the land was al-

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lotted to the Cherokees.

It was going to take over 1000 acres of land for all of our allotments, and we did not have that much land; there was no more to be had, as the country around us was pretty well taken up, so we sold our little place on Honey Creek, and went farther west, to what was termed the big prairie country, like a number of our neighbors were doing.

My husband made a trip over there and located plenty of land, about six miles southeast of the town of Big Cabin and bought a man's improvements, and we moved over. We had just drawn a little over \$3000.00 on the Cherokee Strip payment, and had plenty of money to improve our farm, but we had not forgotten the hard times we had gone through, and we had our heads set to make this money go as far as possible, so we did not build any additional room to the house, but we set about to fence as much of that fine prairie land as we possibly could, and every acre we could fence meant that we could hold a quarter of a mile all around our fence.

We bought posts and wire and my husband set the posts and drove them, and I helped him stretch the wire. I will never forget carrying my half of those heavy spools

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of wire around that 300 or 400 acres of land we fenced that year. We ran a crow-bar through a spool of wire and tied one end to the corner post and let it unroll as we walked. It took a spool to the quarter, and we put on three wires.

We were thankful when we landed over on the prairie to find that a good National School had already been established, within a mile of our home. We started five or six children to school the next day after we arrived there, and found many old Indian families living in the neighborhood, several of whom had moved from Cowskin prairie. Some of the early day teachers were Kate Bushyhead, John E. Butler, J. R. Carselowey, Victoria Cole and others. The name of the school was "Eutopia."

Some of our old neighbors, who had moved to the west side of Grand River from Cowskin prairie were: Ezekiel F Fields, William Powell, Andy Smith and George W. Trout. As fast as our children finished the grade school, we sent them to the Seminary at Tahlequah. Three of our oldest daughters were teachers in the National schools. They were Jennie B., Della and Minnie.

Our oldest son, William Sloan, married a white girl,

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and lived on a farm five miles southeast of Adair. As his children were growing up he bought a home in Pryor for them and they and their mother moved there to send the children to school.

While they were living in Pryor my son stayed on the farm all alone. All at once he disappeared, and we never heard of him again. We never did learn whether he had had trouble with his wife, or met foul play, but all efforts to find him have been futile, and from that day to this we have never heard from him.