

IRELAND, LIZZIE.

INTERVIEW

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IRELAND, LIZZIE

INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

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

431

Field Worker's name Margaret McGuire

This report made on (date) August 26, 1937

1. Name Miss Lizzie Ireland

2. Post Office Address Stidham, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

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 4 sheets.

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Journalist
Margaret McGuire
August 26, 1938

Interview with Lizzie Ireland
Stidham, Oklahoma

My home has been in and near Eufaula all my life. I was born and reared in the Indian Territory, also my father and mother. We were all Creek Indians and lived among our tribe. I belong to the Alligator Clan.

I went to school when a child at the old Asbury Mission. ^{Rev} Mr. Ruble, a Methodist minister, was superintendent of the school then. This school was taught at first in little log cabins until the new building was erected and school continued there for years. The building burned down but was rebuilt. A few years later it burned again and was never rebuilt at the same place. Then I went to school at Prairie ~~Grove~~ and Mr. Joseph Perryman was superintendent. This school was supported by the Presbyterian church, it later burned down and was never rebuilt. It was located northwest of Eufaula, near Stidham.

My parents lived on a farm and before the Civil War had a lot of slaves. Some of my people fought in the Civil War and we were on the Confederate side. My Uncle "Spischee", was in the Green Peach War which was fought among the Creek Indians,

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who took opposing sides with the North and South, during the Civil War. Some of the Indians went north to fight and some went south. The women folks went south to get out of the way of the battles. We camped near some Cherokees and had many friends among them.

When the war was over we moved back to this part of the Territory where McIntosh County is now and lived in old North Fork town, southeast of Eufaula for a long time.

Our church was down near the river and Dr. Buckner, a Baptist minister was our pastor. This church is not there now; it has been gone for a long time.

I was living at old North Fork town when the Katy Railroad was built through this part of the Territory. After it was finished everyone moved up to the railroad and that is now Eufaula. Up until that time we did all our trading at old North Fork town. By the time I had grown up to be a young lady, I started working in a hotel at Eufaula called the "Eufaula House". This hotel ran for a long time as people moving in from other states would stay there; they were most all white people. Later the hotel burned down and I went to work for my brother-in-law, Mr. Serby, who owned one of the

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first restaurants in town. I worked for him several years. His wife had died a long time back but he lived to be real old. After he died I went to live with my niece Mrs. Sam McIntosh, at Stidham, and have lived with her ever since.

We would go to the Muskogee fair every fall and that is the only fair I ever knew about. I worked all the time and did not go many places.

My allotment of land is across North Canadian River, one mile north and one mile west of Richardsville. It is mostly hills and rock, not very good land. Our hunting ground was on a mountain west of Eufaula. We would kill a lot of game and hang our meat up to dry, so we could keep it all winter. We would also take a part of the meat and pound it into small pieces and cook it.

~~The Territory has grown so much and there are so many~~
improvements. My Mother made cloth by spinning thread of cotton on a hand made loom. She would dye the thread with dyes made from barks and make all colors of dyes, then she would
~~weave the thread into cloth on a loom made of wood.~~ The cloth was most all checks, stripes or big plaids. She made blankets on the loom in all white and some in colors and also wove wool

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blankets. My Mother made Indian pottery, using a light gray clay, wetting it just soft enough to handle and shape with the hands. When it was dry, but still hot she would take a feather and mark the lines, the pottery being hot would scorch the feather, in this manner the designs were made.

We had big camp meetings about one and one half miles northwest of Eufaula. Lights were made by putting a string or a piece of cloth in a bowl with tallow or fat from some animal, light one end and it would burn for hours. The Indians made fires by taking two flint rocks and striking these together over grass shavings or something that would catch fire easy. The first electric light plant was on the east side of the railroad, I don't remember the year but it was since Statehood. The first Indian Agency I remember about was at Muskogee.

The Council House ^{was} at Okmulgee and the old buildings are still there. My brother, John Ireland, worked there a long time ago.

The Indians would take everything that belonged to one of their dead and bury it with them, they even cooked the food they liked best and place it on top of their caskets.

I had several valuable papers and books which were destroyed when my home burned.