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BOYES, LUCY (MRS.) INTERVIEW #4344

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BOYES, LUCY (MRS.) INTERVIEW Form A-(S-149)
BIOGRAPHY FORM #4344
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) June 7 1937

1. Name Mrs. Lucy Boyes

2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 921 Seventh Street

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

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father Noah Minor Place of birth Murray County in

Other information about father Tennessee. Pioneer of Okla. came in 1890.

7. Name of Mother Martha Minor Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother Born in Moutrie County. Came to Oklahoma in 1890.

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 _____.

Interview with Mrs. Lucy Boyes
921 7th Street, Perry, Oklahoma.
Father-Noah Minor
Mother-Martha Minor.

Mrs. Boyes came with her parents to Oklahoma in 1890, and located in Payne County in a country called Paradise Prairie, because of the beautiful lay of the land and because it was covered with beautiful flowers and trees. Their home was on a hill which they named Paradise Hill.

Shortly after locating in Oklahoma she was employed as a teacher for the New Hope Seminary near Scullyville, in the Choctaw Nation. This was a school for the Choctaw Indian girls and at that time the enrollment would only permit one hundred and three students. This school was under the supervision of the Methodist Church and was first organized by two Methodist Ministers who had been sent there from Indiana. This school was supervised by the Methodist Church until 1885, at which time the South Methodist took charge. The finances for this school or Seminary were secured from an allowance of \$10,000 by the Government and the income.

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from the farm, that was called the New Hope Farm, which consisted of about one hundred acres.

Judge Harrison was National Secretary of the Choctaw Nation and was a frequent visitor at the Seminary. James Murray was a missionary for the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Boyes has a picture of Willis Folsom, who was a full-blood Choctaw and who acted as minister at the school and preached once a month. She also has quite a collection of pictures and manuscripts which she secured while teacher there. Among them are pictures of several buildings; one, a two-story rock building which in War days was used as a shelter for army horses. This had been repaired and the lower room was used as the hospital, the upper for the sewing rooms, where the sewing lessons were given. The general class room building had the dormitory on the upper floor.

Another two-story building, located near the

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class room, had teachers's rooms and the guest rooms on the upper floor, with the dining room, music room, and the Superintendent's quarters on the lower floor.

Among the teachers employed were two Methodists, one Baptist, and a Presbyterian, who organized a Sunday School and a prayer meeting, which were held in a log cabin building that was located about one-half mile from the school buildings. This building was crowded each Sunday with both Indians and whites.

Later the teachers financed the building of a larger room, which the picture shows to be built of wide boards in an upright position.

Mrs. Boyes was the leader for these church meetings. A Mrs. Maroney, a white woman whose husband was a full-blood Indian, was the first Superintendent of the Sunday School. The Indian girls who were students at the Seminary looked to her for advice. There were regular church services, with a Methodist and a Presbyterian minister preaching

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each month; also one sermon each month by Rev. Willis Folsom, the full-blood Choctaw mentioned before.

The residents also often went to Scullyville for church services and would make the trip in a wagon with an ox team and an Indian as the driver.

The teachers often had to help care for the sick in the community, and had to assist at funerals, at times conducting them.

Some of the Indians would get drunk and at times were known to do considerable harm while in a drunken state. If the white people heard their shouting and noise, they would put out their lights, for if the Indians passed their cabins and saw them burning, they would shoot them out.

The food that was used at the Seminary, where the students and teachers were all boarded, consisted of biscuits and syrup and sometimes fried hominy for breakfast; with boiled beef, cabbage, potatoes and beans for dinner; and hominy and milk for supper. For fruit we had dried apples.

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The water for the institution was supplied by a spring, near which was located the wash house.

The work of the cooking and laundry was done by the students, working in groups in the different departments, under the direction of the teacher for that division.

The supplies were brought from Fort Smith, Arkansas, by wagon. The stage coach carried the mail from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Scullyville, which was the Post office for that community.

Mrs. Boyes (who, when teacher at New Hope Seminary, was Miss Lucy Minor) was employed at the school in 1890, '91, and '92, after which she returned to the home of her parents in Payne County, from where she made the race in the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893, securing a farm near Perry which she still owns.

In 1899, she was elected Superintendent of Schools in Noble County and was still holding the office when she was married to H. L. Boyes. Since

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1899, she has resided in Perry, and oversees her
farm.