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CAMPBELL, ALICE.

INTERVIEW

#4652

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the rest of the family are all well. John and Jennie send there love  
to you your sister will write you soon we were very anxious about you  
as we have not had any word from you for more than A year. Well and  
soon as you get his. With love to you and your wife I must close and  
believe me your loving Mother C. Campbell

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Augusta H. Custer

This report made on (date) June 28, 1937 1937

1. Name Mrs. Alice Campbell

2. Post Office Address Geary, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) West Main St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 25 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Jackson County, Kansas

6. Name of Father Mr. Davis Williams Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

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 5.

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Augusta H. Custer,  
Interviewer,  
June 28, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Alice Campbell,  
Geary, Oklahoma.

I was born in Jackson County, Kansas, March 25, 1874. My parents were Mr. and Mrs. Davis Williams. We lived on a farm and I had four brothers and no sisters. We all worked and helped in anyway that we could and went to country schools but none of us had much education. I was married to Adam Lewis and he and my brother, John Williams, came to Blaine County in 1892 and took claims and then my sister-in-law and I came to them. I was nineteen years of age at that time, in 1893. We chartered a car and brought all our household goods and three horses and two cows on the train to El Reno. There were no fences in this part of the county at that time and everyone had to herd his cows off his neighbors' crops in summer time. There were many big trees then and we cut our timber and had it sawed and built a house from the trees on our own place. (At this time there are no trees large enough for saw timber). The

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old house is standing today and is used for a barn.

When Mr. Lewis came and bought the improvements there was a small box car house. We lived in that the first summer and built a dugout before winter, so that we would be warm. The dugout was made by digging a square hole in the ground, about twelve by twelve and four feet deep. There were steps dug out to go down into the room. There were two rows of logs placed around the top of the square hole to make the walls higher. Then across the top and in the center was placed a ridge pole, larger than the others which was to hold the roof. From this ridge log boards were sloped each way and the cracks were covered by other boards and then at least six inches of dirt was put on top of that. There was one window in the end opposite the door and we had a small glass in the door. The floor was dirt and the walls were just dirt and logs. The only articles of furniture which we brought were a bedstead, table, stove and a few chairs and my organ that Father bought me when I was thirteen years of age. I still have the organ; it is of

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walnut and I prize it as an heirloom. I also have a rug which my grandfather made by hand when he lived in Wales. This is a very beautiful piece of handwork and the colors of blue and white are clear and bright. Adam cut down the large trees and had them sawed into lumber as there was a sawmill on the South Canadian River, about eight miles from Geary. With this lumber he built a two room house, and so with the dugout we had plenty of room. This house is the barn which is on the place today. Our place is located six miles southwest of Geary.

#### Game

There was some quail here and a few prairie chickens, but more wild turkey than any other small game. We had venison sometimes, but Mr. Lewis was not much of a hunter. He did not care much to fish either. Others had fish and more wild meat than we did.

#### Social Life

Singing schools and Literary Societies were what we enjoyed especially in the winter, during the long evenings.

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At the Literary Societies there was a chance to get jokes on all the people of the neighborhood through the newspaper of the society, this was enjoyed by everyone.

#### Post Office

We got our mail at Judson, a post office kept by Ed Barkley located one mile north and four west of Geary. At that time Mr. Barkley kept a small store and the post office. After his death his father, Eli Barkley, was post master for many years. I would put my side saddle on my pony and ride three miles to get the mail at least once a week, but the mail came to the post office three times a week from El Reno to Norths store then on to Judson. Some times the mail was brought in a hack and sometimes on horseback according to the weather and the roads.

I told you that we brought three horses in the car with us. A short time after we were located on our claim the team wandered off and Adam searched for them for several days. He could not find them. He had a chance to go to El Reno with a neighbor and a man told him that a team answering the description of ours was in El Reno a few days before and they were

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now twelve miles east. Mr. Lewis found that they were his mares all right and sent word to the man named, John Adams, who was holding them that he would come for them soon. The mares had no trouble in making their way as far back as El Reno where they had been unloaded from the train, and Adams had picked them up there. Mr. Lewis hauled wheat and corn to El Reno nine years before Geary was even started.

Eli Barkley is buried in the Geary cemetery where Adam Lewis is also buried. Mr. Barkley does not have any kind of a marker at his grave. Mr. Lewis died January, 1927, and Mrs. Lewis married Cordie Campbell in 1928. Mr. Campbell was a rural mail carrier in Kansas and Oklahoma, for over twenty-nine years. He died August, 1936, and is buried in the Geary cemetery. The cemetery is kept in good condition, by the citizens and the city.