

JOHNSON, L. A. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 8097 -

324

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

JOHNSON, L. A. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#8097.

Field Worker's name Eunice M. Mayer,

This report made on (date) July 20, 1937

1. Name Mrs. L. A. Johnson,

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 12 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Gatesville, Texas.

6. Name of Father J. R. Crouch Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Ann Young Hutt Place of birth Missouri.

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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Eunice M. Mayer,

Interviewer.

July 20, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. L. A. Johnson,
Mangum, Oklahoma.

Mrs. L. A. Johnson of Mangum is a daughter of J. R. Crouch who emigrated to this section from South Texas in 1884. The family had come to Texas from Missouri in 1882. After arriving in Mangum the Crouch family pitched a tent on the place where Mrs. T. N. Slaten's residence now stands on South Oklahoma Avenue. The family of Mr. H. C. Sweet lived in the vicinity and a water well in the brakes was used by both families.

Later, Mr. Crouch opened a hotel which supplied home cooked meals for hungry freighters and cowboys. The freighters carried supplies from Wichita Falls to Fort Supply and Fort Elliott.

Mrs. Johnson's father, Mr. Crouch was almost forced into the hotel business; the cowboys were so hungry for women's cooking that Mr. and Mrs. Crouch finally granted their request and opened a hotel.

Mr. Crouch and Mr. Sweet were attracted to Greer County by the promise of land grants through their

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2

possession of Veterans' certificates. Both were Veterans of the Civil War but the land grants were never made to them.

Mrs. Johnson went to school in a dugout when she first came to Mangum. Thirteen pupils attended the school; they used wire spools for benches. J. R. Nye, the teacher, wore a long beard which attracted the scholars.

Mr. Crouch, Mrs. Johnson's father, was on very friendly terms with the Indians who visited here quite often. The Indians called Mr. Crouch "Chuckaway Chief". The Indians claimed kin with Mrs. Johnson because of her dark hair, eyes and complexion.

There were few pioneer women in the neighborhood and Mr. Crouch bought for his daughter a horse, saddle and rifle; she learned to ride well and became an excellent shot.

In 1888 Mrs. Johnson went to South Texas to school, at Grandview.

JOHNSON, L. A. (MRS.)

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3

Amusements of the settlers were picnics, wagon rides, cave exploration, and long walks over the prairie. No fences were to be found on the open range, which was given over to wild cattle, deer, antelope and wild flowers. The prairie was a solid mass of wild flowers so beautiful, there are no words to describe them.

When the family came to Greer County, Mrs. Johnson brought four pet chickens with her in a bird cage. They were the first chickens to be found in Greer.

Being one of the youngest of the pioneer children in the community, the young cowboys presented Mrs. Johnson with presents of baby deer, turkey and calves.

L. A. Johnson, husband of Mrs. Johnson, was a genuine pioneer of old Greer County. His death occurred in 1931, after a lifetime devoted to furthering the best interests of the county and town.