

GOETTING, CRAGG, (MRS.) INTERVIEW 8192

321

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

GOETTING, CRAGG (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

8192.

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) August 12, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Cragg Goetting. ($\frac{1}{2}$ Caddo)

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1428 Kansas.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 28 Year 1889

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father Thad Smith Place of birth Alabama.

7. Name of Mother Sarah Ann Davis Place of birth Chickasaw Nation

Other information about mother _____

$\frac{1}{2}$ degree Caddo Indian.

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.

GOETTING, CRAGG (MRS.)

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Thad Smith Jr.,
Interviewer,
August 12, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Cragg Goetting,
1428 Kansas, Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I was born on the Caddo Reservation, ten miles northwest of Chickasha, in 1889.

At the age of six years, I started to a Catholic Mission school at Anadarko, Father Isadore being in charge of the school.

The school was a two-story building; our sleeping quarters were upstairs and we girls, as there were eighteen or twenty to the room, were put in the care of the Sisters, Tranquilla, Miliana, and Becarty. These Sisters were all young, and were very kind to us.

One of our daily studies was Catholic Catechism.

Every Sunday when Father Isadore held services, several Indian men and women would come to hear.

In the Fall of 1896, I started to Faits' Mission, located about three miles east of Anadarko.

My book studies were taught to me by Miss Mahan, and our Matron, Miss Langalier, taught us to sew and darn. Each child had a sewing bag, which contained a tape measure, needles, thread, pin cushion, thimble, and darning needles and thread.

GOETTING, CRAGG (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

8192.

-2-

My mother bought goods and made my clothes, yet it was exciting to see the boxes and barrels of clothes opened that were shipped to us from the East.

There were approximately fifty pupils going to school there, and as many of us as could, went with Mr. Fait to Anadarko every Sunday to hear him preach at the Presbyterian Church. Two of the songs we sang then were "Sweet hour of Prayer", and "Anywhere with Jesus".

During school term the Indian children's parents would camp on the creek, close to the school, and visit their children; sometimes they would stay two or three days, and it was a real treat to the children to go to their parents' camp and eat with them.

I have attended many Indian dances when I was a child, and have found the Indians to be very kind hearted, and generous to a fault.

I was told by my mother, that her father, James M. Davis, a white man, sawed and put up ice in a dugout in the winter of 1885 and 1886. The ice, which was cut on the Washita River, was about five inches thick. He cut about two tons and packed it in sawdust, that was gotten at the Government sawmill at

GOETTING, CRAGG. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

8192.

-3-

~~Anadarko, on the north side of the river,~~

The dugout had a pitch roof made of poles and covered with straw and dirt. The door was made tight and wasn't opened until July and the ice lasted for about two months.

~~Before any land was broken the river was clear,~~
and made good ice.

In the '90's my father, Thad Smith, had one of the biggest ranches in the Caddo Country. He controlled forty thousand acres of land which he had leased from the Caddo Indians through the Department of Interior. He hired lots of cowboys who slept and ate in a bunk house near our house. One of our best bronc riders was Turner Cochran, a half Chickasaw and half Cherokee Indian. Nearly every Sunday was spent riding broncos.

After the Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche Country was opened white men made quail hunting trips in the Fall and Winter, taking big traps and nets. The nets were stretched up so that the quail, then gentle, could be driven into the traps. They were caught by the thousands, cleaned and packed in barrels, and shipped East for sale.

I attended the Washita school in Grady County taught by Miss Eloise Bell, one year; went to Almeta Bond College at Minco, taught

GOETTING, CRAGG (MRS.)
GOETTING,

INTERVIEW.

8192.

-4-

by Mrs. Sager, for two years; went to Haskell Institute at
Lawrence, Kansas, three years, and finished my education
in a business college at Chickasha, Oklahoma.
