

LANTZ, PEARL GILLIAM.

INTERVIEW

#12569

LANTZ, PEARL GILLIAM. INTERVIEW. Form A-(S-149) #12569

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) December 23, 1937

1. Name Pearl Gilliam Lantz

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 3616 East Admiral Place

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1886

5. Place of birth Montague County, Texas

6. Name of Father Morgan Gilliam Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Eliza Cooper Gilliam Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Part Cherokee 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 6.

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Investigator, Mery D. Dorward,
December 23, 1937.

Interview with Pearl Gilliam Lantz,
3616 East Admiral Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Pearl Gilliam Lantz (Mrs. W. E. Lantz), daughter of Morgan Gilliam and Eliza Cooper Gilliam, was born in Montague County, Texas, in 1886, coming to Indian Territory in 1888. Mrs. Lantz is one-sixteenth Cherokee Indian on her mother's side. Her father, Morgan Gilliam, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, his activities being centered in Tennessee.

Upon coming to Indian Territory from Texas, the Gilliams settled on a large farm between Ardmore and Marietta, where they remained for ten years. In 1898, in order that Mrs. Gilliam might be eligible to file for an allotment in the Cherokee Nation, the family moved to what is now Tulsa County, settling just east of the little settlement of Tulsa in what is now known as Federal Heights, directly north of and across the street from the present residence of Mrs. Lantz. Here Mr. Gilliam bought the improvements on a plot of land,

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since it was necessary that the land filed upon should have improvements on it before it could be filed upon, moved on it and proved the claim. There were eighty acres in Mrs. Gilliam's allotment. Mrs. Lantz received an allotment of seventy-nine acres, one and one-half miles east of Turley along Bird Creek. Her allotment is still in her possession. Neither Mrs. Lantz nor her mother received Strip payments.

Mrs. Lantz's father was a farmer on rather a large scale, having as much as sixty acres devoted to cotton alone. As a child Mrs. Lantz, together with her brothers and sisters, used to help with the cotton picking. The eight of them once picked, in one season, forty-two bales at home and four bales away from home, forty-six bales in all, which was considered remarkable; a bale weighing fifteen hundred pounds in the seed. When the cotton was good they could pick a bale a day.

Mrs. Gilliam used to make her own dyes for use at home. The bark of the oak was used for light brown, the bark of the walnut tree was used for dark brown; the bark being boiled in water in a large iron kettle until it was the desired shade. She also carded, spun, and wove her own cloth,

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both cotton and wool. Mrs. Lantz has a woolen blanket which was spun and woven by her mother-in-law. She also has a bedspread which was spun and woven, then made into a quilt by her great-grandmother during the Civil War. The Gilliams tanned squirrel hides by burying them in the ash hopper and leaving them for some time. The hair would then be loosened, and by rubbing and working with the hands the skin became soft and pliable. It was then used to make shoe strings or for repairing saddles, harness, etc.

When the Gilliams came to Tulsa there were only board sidewalks with great holes in them. One had to be careful or he would fall into a hole. The only brick or stone building was the Turner building, of stone, at the southeast corner of Main and First Streets.

Mrs. Lantz' husband, W. E. Lantz, opened the grocery department in the Tate Brady store. Prices have changed very little since then. However, the Lantz' have an old price list, or rather a bill of sale, for groceries and other commodities dated 1829,

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in which prices are materially different from what they are now. The bill of sale bears the heading, Dearman & Stallings, Marshfield, Missouri, is written in ink, somewhat faded but clearly legible.

Some of the items listed are:

sugar @ .25 the lb.

calico @ \$.75 the yard

macaroni @ 50¢ the lb.

tea @ \$3.00 the lb.

Other antiques of interest include: hymn book published in 1814 by Gerard and Berry, Frankfort, Kentucky; several pages from what appears to be a prayerbook printed in German; letter sent from Newville, California, to Isabella, Missouri, the postage on which was twelve cents, the date being 1886; copy of a paper issued by the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes containing the decision admitting Mrs. Gilliam to enrolment as a citizen of the Cherokee tribe; a family Bible, the date of publication of which has been lost, but containing

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family records of births as early as 1762, and containing the Apocrypha also. (This Bible has been repaired with a piece of squirrel hide tanned at home.)