

SEBSTER, LULLA

INTERVIEW

1950

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WEBSTER, . LUELLA (SPRAGUE DUNCAN) INTERVIEW
BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

8930

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) October 20 1937

1. Name Mrs. Luella (Sprague Duncan) Webster

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) 210 Arlington

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 4 Year 18-

5. Place of birth

6. Name of Father 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

Opheelia D. Vestal
Interviewer
October 20, 1937

Interview with
Mrs. Luella Webster
Lawton, Oklahoma.

Our family, consisting of my husband, three children and me, came to Oklahoma in 1901 from Indianapolis, Indiana. We came to Marlow, then came westward to our new home which was located six miles northwest of Cache, driving a team and covered wagon.

We were on the road three days from Marlow to our homestead.

We did not know what to expect as we had not been this way before so we had decided it would be best to bring food enough to last us for a few months. The food which we brought with us and the wild game that we found, helped us quite a lot.

My husband was a lawyer in Indiana and he had served as a captain in the Civil War, but here, we decided to homestead and farm. We worked hard trying to raise vegetables for a supply through the winter months.

There was no church for white people so we attended

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services with the Indians at Post Oak Mission in Comanche County.

A little school was soon erected for our children and our neighbor's children. There was not a very large attendance and the school terms were very short.

Our friendship with the Indians grew rapidly. Quanah Parker was an old Indian Chief of the Comanche Tribe. His home was about two miles from where we lived. Sometimes my husband would walk over to Quanah's house and they would talk, sitting on his porch. Quanah was a very proud Indian; he called himself "big chief" and called my husband "big white chief," because Mr. Webster had been a captain in the Civil War.

We stayed on our farm northwest of Cache for about ten years, then moved to Lawton to educate our children. I lost my husband and later remarried. I then became proprietor of the Duncan Hotel where many Indians came for the night's lodging. Of the many customers here, most were Indians. Here they met, too, for their important meetings. I learned a great deal about the Indians and their habits here. They rented a large room.

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When the meeting started, one would speak, then the one who sat next to the speaker would talk, and so on around the circle. All had a chance to give their opinions.

They did not interrupt in the speech as we (white) people interrupt one another.

When an Indian family would drive into town, the woman would drive the team and she would get out and tie the team whether it was raining or the sun was shining.

One Indian girl named Sarah decided that she would like to be a teacher. She would talk with my daughter and study with her, too. Sometimes she used my daughter's other books.

Sarah believed so strongly that some day she would be a great teacher, that she changed her dress from a shawl to a dress like that worn by white women. We thought then that Sarah would carry out her plans, but soon her visits became farther apart and for sometime we did not see her at all. When we did meet, she had gone back to her native dress, the blanket or shawl, had mar-

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ried and was the mother of three children. She was glad to see us and talked lots, even though we did find her sitting among some other Indians on the street.