

WEST, LOUISA

INTERVIEW

#7915

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

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) October 22, 1937.

1. Name LOUISA WEST
2. Post Office Address Weleetka R.L.
3. Residence address (or location) One mile north of Bryant
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Don't know age but Year elderly.
5. Place of birth West of Weleetka

6. Name of Father George Sullivan Place of birth _____

Other information about father District Judge of Deep Fork
four years.

7. Name of Mother Liza Place of birth _____

Other information about mother Liza died when I was a baby.

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 _____

INVESTIGATOR, GRACE KELLEY
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
October 22, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH LOUISA WEST
Route 1, Weleetka, Oklahoma.

My grandmother, Elizabeth Fisher, was the ancestor whom I remember telling about coming to this country. The Indians had a very disagreeable trip with much hunger, sickness and trouble of all kinds. When they finally got here they settled on the Canadian River. They built little houses similar to this one except they did not have porches, and were only one room log houses without any windows and with only one door. Every house had a fireplace for they had no stoves. By the time the Civil War broke out the Indians had good homes, cattle, hogs, horses, little farms of corn, sweet potatoes, pumpkin and things like that. They had little patches of cotton for their own use. The seeds were picked out by hand and then made into thread and cloth. They made clothes and quilts out of it. They made chairs and other furniture.

CIVIL WAR.

When the Civil War broke out the Fisher family went north with a lot of others leaving their homes and possessions behind. They stayed up north at least a year and the ones who were still alive came back to where their homes had been. The Government helped them because when they got home everything they had had was gone- their homes, stock and everything.

THE OLD STORE AND THE ISPARHECHAR WAR.

Uncle Jim Fife had a store between where Springfield and Weleetka are now. We were on Isparhechar's side and when they had a battle over there close to where Okemah is, lots of us went over across the North Canadian River and stayed until the war was over. We took all the groceries out of the store with us. There was a big camp of us and we stayed a long time, a year or more.

JUDGE WILLIAM (BILL) SULLIVAN

William Sullivan was judge at the court house close to Okemah.

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If someone stole or broke into a house the culprit was tied in a chair and watched until the time came for his trial or for a council. Then he was tied up and whipped. There were five light-horsemen whose duty it was to do the whipping, guarding and arresting. I only remember two of them but they are all dead now. Jack Andrew and my husband, Billie West, whose Square name was Spokokee Harjo.

My husband, Spokokee Harjo-Billie West, was a Light-horseman and his duties were similiar to those of a United States Marshal. He watched for whiskey peddlers, thieves of any kind whether they stole stock or broke into some house, arrested them and guarded them until trial then acted as one of the executioners. Some were whipped and some were killed, according to their crimes.

After his work was through as an officer he was baptised into the Baptist Church and then he went to preaching. Sometimes he went on a pony and other times he went with other men. Sometimes we went with

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him but not always. He preached wherever he was called and at many churches including; Arbeca, Hutchachuppa, Alabama, Thlewathle. No Indian church pays its preacher as they preach for the love of God and humanity. So my husband farmed for a living.

INDIAN CHURCH

On Fridays we load quilts, mattresses, food and what kettles we will need and go to the church.

Some people do not take these things back and forth as they have cabins and everything is left there. It is much handier but it costs more. Friday and Saturday are used to work, cook and get ready for Sunday.

Sunday morning they have Sunday School and preaching. Sunday night they have three or four preachers. They have preaching and singing all night, first, one preacher talks then another and on Monday morning they come home.

GEORGE SULLIVAN

My father, George Sullivan, was a District Judge of Deep Fork District for several years.

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SPRING TOWN.

Spring Town was four or five miles west of Weleetka. Some call it Springfield. It was the Indian town where my husband was clerk when Joe Siah Looney was Judge.

JOE SIAH LOONEY

Joe Siah Looney was a Light-horse Captain when George Sullivan was judge; then he was elected Judge, then he was converted and preached like my husband did wherever called and he started the Arbeca Church south of Bryant because of the inconvenience of going to Alabama church when the weather was bad.

ASBERRY CEMETERY

The Asberry graves are three miles south of Bryant on Mollie Asberry's allotment.