

WRIGHT, MARY JANE. INTERVIEW 9554

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BIOGRAPHIC FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Planner History Project for Oklahoma

WRIGHT, MARY JANE

INTERVIEW

9554

Field Worker's name Zaidee B. Bland

This report made on (date) December 30, 1937.

1. Name Mrs. Mary Jane Wright

2. Post Office Address Altus

3. Residence address (or location) 414 N. Navajo St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 17 Year 1852

5. Place of birth Putnam County, Tennessee

6. Name of Father John Phillips Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Arenia Burris Place of birth South Carolina

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 3

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Zaidee B. Bland,  
Journalist,  
December 30, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Mary Jane Wright,  
414 N. Navajo Street, Altus, Okla.

We came out here because my sister Adelaide was out here and wanted us near her. Her husband was always a good provider and they always lived well and we lived with them a long time. Mr. Wright was a plasterer and painter and that work did not get to be too flourishing for a long time after we came but when people did get to building we climbed right up for there was a lot to do.

My husband and my sister together always shielded me from everything that was not pleasant so that I never had a hard time like a lot of women did whom I have heard tell about. I never lived in a dugout or cooked on a fireplace in this country. I spent two years on the farm and the rest of the time I have lived in the town of Blair or in Altus. I lived in a two-room house several years when my children were small but I always had a buggy and horse to go where I wanted to. The children did not have to go very far to school and church was at old Dot before it was moved to Blair

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so that was not far. I am so old that I cannot remember the people a lot of things but this is a great country and ~~have~~ been good and kind and neighborly. There is scarcely a plastered house in this whole country far or near that my husband did not plaster it if it was built twenty years or longer so I feel like we are a part of the comfort of the country. I love to think about how people loved to move into their nice plastered homes after living in dugouts or tents. Some times the house would be only one room but it would be so nice and warm and would always be appreciated.

Pioneer women lived nearer together in heart if they were not so close together in cities and loved more and shared what they had more. If there was a poor family heard of in some neighborhood every one divided what he or she had and we seldom had poor people only when some one was burned out or died or had his or her things blown away. There was always plenty to eat and some way we did not seem to think about style; we were comfortable in our clothes, summer and winter, and that was all we thought about. Of course we had new dresses but not until the old ones were worn out or

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got too small for the children. If a dress got too small we just passed it on, never thought of tearing it up or throwing it away. It took ten yards of goods to make a dress. But sometimes a dress lasted ten years; it depended on the goods it was made from and if it happened to be a Sunday dress it was certain to last several years.