

INDEX CARDS

Pottawatomies
Cattle--Pastors
Freighting

Field Worker: Amelia Harris
March 16, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. Isobell Mims (1/2 Pottawatomie Indian)
514 West 8th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BORN About 18 miles northeast of
Purcell, Oklahoma in Pottawatomie County
1876

PARENTS Father, Peter Anderson, Kansas
Mother, Mary, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

Field Worker's note:

Mrs. Mims did not care to talk. She seemed averse to tell any of the hardships; she was afraid it would sound ludicrous. Mrs. Mims finally gave me this bit when she found I was an Indian too.

I was born about 1876 northeast of Purcell, in the Pot country as we called it. My father came to this country when he was eighteen years old. Two years later married my mother who was only fourteen years old.

Father cut and hauled, about ten miles, post oak logs to build their first home which was a two room log house, with a hall way between. He also, made clap board (Shingles) for the roof.

Father freighted all our groceries from Sherman, Texas. He drove a wagon and good horses and it took him about ten days to go and come. He would have to camp as neighbors were far apart. He always bought flour in the barrel, green coffee by the tow sack, sugar by the one hundred pounds and canned goods in big boxes full.

Father was not a cattle man, just a farmer, but a good provider. We lived neighbors to Bill McClure, cattle man, ranch about

... miles from us.

Cattle thieves stole lots of Mr. McClure's cattle.

... time Officers deputized Father, Frank Gault, and Bill McClure to try to catch the thieves. The thieves were old man Bly and son. They (the cattle thieves) killed Father from ambush. He was just forty years old. The officers got the thieves. I don't know if they got the thieves or not that shot Father.

The officers, Mr. Gault, or McClure, did not get hurt.

We had a small "Quaker" community church and Quaker Preacher.

Father and Mother both belonged to this church.

There was not a doctor within eighteen miles of us. My grandmother acted as midwife to our neighbors. If any of us or our neighbors were sick with colds or pneumonia, she doctored us with an ointment made of skunk oil, quinine, coal oil, mixed good and rubbed on the chest, lungs and throat, then heated a red flannel cloth and placed it over the greased parts. If we coughed much, she put a little sugar in a teaspoon dropped about three drops coal oil on it and we swallowed it. We soon stopped coughing. Every spring we had to take a tablespoon of sulphur and sorghum for about a week. Grandmother heated Jimson weed leaves to draw inflammation out of sores or boils. She used peach tree leaves made into a poltice for locked bowels. She had a remedy for all our ailments.

I went to school at Sacred Heart Mission near Kiowa for three years, was about all the schooling I had.

Mother sold the farm and we moved in three miles east of Moctaw, my younger brothers and sisters went to school there.

We allotted this land through the Agency at Shawnee.

The heads of the family and all the children over twenty-one years and older could allet 160 acres. All under twentyone years old only got 80 acres.

My mother died when I was fifteen years old. My baby sister was three weeks old, Grandmother took the baby and raised her. Our cousin, Mary Hardin, came to live with us and assist me in taking care of my younger brothers and sisters. There were nine children of us.
