

COLBERT, ROSABEL.

INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149) #13483
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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) March 23, 193 8

1. Name Rosabel Colbert (Choctaw Intermarried)

2. Post Office Address Kenefic, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) In town

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 6 Year 1867

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father John Davis Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Pauline Stilzer Place of birth Pennsylvania

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.

Interview with Rosabel Colbert
Kenefic, Oklahoma

Investigator - Lula Austin
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
March 23, 1938

I was married in 1888 and lived that year at Rock Ferry on Red River. I remember we had heavy rains and hard hail that beat our corn to the ground. The river was all over the bottom and there was much loss of livestock. My husband was called to Fort Smith as a witness in a murder trial and when he started home the passenger trains had stopped running on account of the rains having washed much of the tracks away. The agent sold my husband a ticket and said that he could go so far on a work train and then transfer to a passenger train. My husband was unable to get a work train so he walked from Fort Smith to Paris, Texas.

We lost all our crops that year and the next year we decided to look for another location and traveled in an ox wagon up to a place near Roff. We camped there for awhile then went to Sulphur; there was one old house there made of pickets located near the old spring. We went on from there to Blue River at Nail's Crossing

but stayed there only a short while and moved three miles from the crossing and built a two-room box house hauling the lumber from Stringtown. The next year we weather-boarded the house and added a porch. The house still stands; it was built in 1889.

My friends from Texas would delight in coming to see me and when they came we would hitch three yoke of oxen to the long wagon and put three spring seats on it and go on a picnic; two of the oxen were young and we would put them in the swing and they would fall down and sometimes it would take thirty minutes to get them up. My husband didn't realize that he could break the land with mules but thought he had to use oxen. The grass was so high that you could see only a man's head when he was riding through the grass. My husband traded a little pony for a claim two and a half miles from Nida.

Robert Nail was my husband's great-uncle. My husband's mother was Miss Nail. My mother and her brother attended school at Boggy Depot, their teacher was Governor Guy's sister. I have a piece of poetry Jim Guy, son of Governor Guy, wrote named "Old Boggy Depot" and a home made pocket knife that was brought here from Mississippi by Mr. Colbert's grandparents.