

MOBLEY, L. A. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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

#13540

MOBLEY, L. A. Mrs.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Kenneth C. Black

This report made on (date) April 5, 1938

1. Name Mrs. L. A. Mobley

2. Post Office Address: Heavener, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 14 Year 1877

5. Place of birth Hartford, Arkansas.

6. Name of Father Dr. Schiebel Copps Place of birth Iowa

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Betty Copps Place of birth Arkansas.

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 _____.

An Interview with Mrs. L. A. Mobley, Heavener, Oklahoma.
By - Kenneth C. Black - Investigator.
April 5, 1938.

Mrs. L. A. Mobley is an old timer in Heavener, Oklahoma. She moved here with her father Dr. Schiethel Copps in 1880. Heavener was not in existence for years and Monroe was the nearest trading post. Many herd of cattle ranged the place where the streets and residences of Heavener now are. An Indian played a great part in getting Dr. Copps and his family settled. The Indian, Hampton Perry, now deceased, owned some land and it was from him that Dr. Copps leased land. This land was located northwest of Heavener on Highway #72 on its eastern edge and the Heavener memorial park is on a part of Dr. Copps lease. On this land Dr. Copps founded a home and combined the practice of medicine with farming. Dr. Copps was the only physician for miles around. He had many interesting experiences attending the Indians. An account of one experience follows; One evening while Dr. Copps and family were having their evening meal, a young Indian came running to tell Dr. Copps that his sweetheart was ill and that he wanted Dr. Copps to come with him to see her. It was a very cold night and Dr.

Copps had to ride miles to reach this Indian maiden. When he arrived the whole tribe with the Medicine men were grouped around her beating tom toms and carrying on their mythical cure. Dr. Copps saw that the girl was very ill; he cleared the room except for one old squaw, who held the torch for him. He examined the patient and found she had pneumonia. He told them to keep the room cleared of people and gave her medicine. He called the young Indian and told him that his sweetheart was very ill and also told him he would be back to see her soon. With Dr. Copps' care the maiden recovered. On these long cold trips Dr. Copps contracted a severe cold and was a sick man. During this time the Doctor had heard nothing more of the Indians and his wife told him that he should not risk his life to save an Indian girl. Several days later the same young Indian came for Dr. Copps again, telling him that his Indian sweetheart was gone. He explained to him that the Indians thought the girl had caused the doctor's illness and they thought because of this the girl possessed an evil spirit and the only way to rid the tribe of this

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curse was to dispose of the girl. The Indian also told Dr. Copps that the Chief had come to present him with a gift because he had saved one of their tribe. The Chief called a Council meeting and they decided to take her away and leave her at a place where no one except the Chief knew where she had been left. Dr. Copps decided that the only way to find out where she was, was to take the Chief by surprise. He went with the Indian lad to the camp and began a conversation with the Chief. He brought the missing girl into the conversation very casually and the Chief told him where she was so Dr. Copps and the young man hurried to this place. It was a cave infested with rattlesnakes and was located in the mountains many miles away from anything, without chance for escape. They reached the cave and went in after the girl. She was faint and they carried her out into the air. When she revived enough to ride, Dr. Copps sent her and her sweetheart on their way rejoicing.