

DILLON, JENNIE.

INTERVIEW

#9517

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## BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

DILLON, JENNIE.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name

Augusta H. Custer.

This report made on (date)

December 20, 1937.

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1. Name Mrs. Jennie Dillon.
2. Post Office Address Geary, Route 3, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) Six and a half miles north of Geary.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1872.
5. Place of birth Canada.
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6. Name of Father Oliver Barton. Place of birth Maine.
- Other information about father Pioneer of the state of Kansas.  
Has been dead many years.
7. Name of Mother Mrs. Barton. Place of birth Canada.
- Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_
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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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Augusta H. Custer,  
Investigator,  
Dec. 20, 1937.

An Interview With Jennie Dillon,  
Rt. 3, Geary, Oklahoma.

I am the second wife of John H. Dillon. My first husband, Mr. Trout, was the first Treasurer of Blaine <sup>de: th</sup> County. He died several years ago and after the/ of Mrs. Josephine Dillon, Mr. Dillon and I were married and now we are living north of Geary on Mr. Dillon's farm, and have a modern well equipped home. Mr. Trout and I were married and came on the train to Kingfisher in October, 1889. Mr. Trout took some lots in town during the run in Kingfisher County. It was mostly a tent town for awhile. Mr. Trout sold the lots to Logan and Snow who put up a saloon building on them. We stayed in Kingfisher until the Cheyenne and Arapaho country opened.

Mr. Trout got a claim just north of the place where the town of Watonga is today and as soon as Mr. Trout got a four room frame house built on the claim I went there to live. Mr. Sweet and Mr. Tubner got the claim where Watonga is located today. My mother and father went to

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Kansas in 1871 or 1872 so I knew something of the pioneer life up there. I was one of ten children and we often had to do without things that we considered necessary even in those days.

One time, when Mr. Trout had gone to Kingfisher, I was working around my home and I did not know anyone was near when I saw that an Indian named Yellow Shirt was just behind me. He tried to make me understand something but I could not, so he took hold of me and showed me a can of baking powder. He wanted some and I just gave him the can and he went away. I was glad to give it to him.

When we were living at Kingfisher Professor Moss, Mrs. Will Scott and I were going to Darlington in a surrey. We were driving along and enjoying the ride when we saw a cloud of dust rising in the West. We did not think much about it for a while, then we heard the rumble of the feet of many cattle. It was a bunch of long horns stampeding. We were right in their path. I did not realize the extreme danger until Mr. Moss began to drive as fast as the horses could go and he said, "If nothing happens to turn them we will be trampled to death". I was having about

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all I could do to hang on to the seat but I remember how his words scared me. In a few minutes we could hear the yell of cowboys who were urging their ponies to go as fast as they could run and the cowboys managed to cut in ahead of the leaders of the bunch of cattle and turn them from our direction. The dust and heat was awful and I have always considered that to be one of the narrowest escapes from death that I have ever had.

At Kingfisher a dentist named E. C. Delplane became a Methodist minister and he was trying to organize a church and Mr. Trout and I became charter members. Mr. Delplane held meetings in tents and in a room over a drug store. Then we all worked and got money enough to start building a church and we had a good lively group of ladies who worked hard and gave sociables, bezaars and did almost anything to raise money to build a church building.

Mr. Trout was elected as the first County Treasurer. It was the law then that two years was as long as anyone could hold the office. He served his two years, Mr.

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John Dillon was elected as Treasurer and served one year then he resigned to take another political position and he appointed me to finish the term. I was treasurer from October 1, 1900, to October 1, 1901. Since that time the law has been changed and there is no limit to the term of office of County Treasurer if you can be elected.