

INDEX CARDS

Rocky
School Teacher
Dugout-School
Churches

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

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.

This report made on (date) May 14 1937

Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

1. Name Miss Hattie Eberhart

2. Post Office Address Hobart, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 5 Year 1875

5. Place of birth Reading Pennsylvania

6. Name of Father John Eberhart Place of birth Pennsylvania

Other information about father Born Aug. 7th 1845

7. Name of Mother Mary Hoffner Place of birth Pennsylvania.

Other information about mother Born Jan 2, 1851

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 5.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS HATTIE EBERHART
HOBART OKLAHOMA .

FIELD WORKER ETHEL B. TACKITT.
MAY 14, 1937

EXPERIENCE AS PIONEER SCHOOL TEACHER.

I was born near Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1875. My parents were John Eberhart and Mary Heffner Eberhart, who were also natives of Pennsylvania. My father was a farmer.

When I was nine months old, my parents moved to Iowa, where I grew up and was educated.

In 1893 when I was eighteen years old, my father moved our family, which consisted of mother, myself and two brothers, Albert and Walter, and sister, to Oklahoma.

Sister died soon after our arrival in Oklahoma. We settled north of the present town of Rocky, in Washita County. There were not many people in the country but there were a few children among the settlers and their parents wanted them to be in school. I had taught in Iowa before we left there, so my father, with Mr. Frank Duncan, Mr. Thomas Craig and Mr. Mathew Cleatenger, began to make efforts to organize a school district. There were no organized districts at that time. They soon got their plans under way and I was given the place as teacher.

I remember this early school teaching very clearly. The

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school house was a dugout, dug straight down in the ground and covered with poles and dirt. We had to walk down six or eight dirt steps and had a dirt floor. The benches were made of boards and the blackboard was pine boards nailed together and painted black. My desk was a little stand-table which we had brought along with us from Iowa. I walked a mile and one-half to school, and had about a dozen pupils, among whom were my brothers, Albert and Walter. My salary was twenty dollars per month and I taught a four months term. I think we had a good school.

The next year I taught in another district where I had a half-dugout for a school house. That is, it was dug down in the ground half way and then walled up the other half, with windows in it. This time I had to walk two miles to school, across the prairie.

The school furniture was all the same-home-made board kind and we used whatever books we could get.

There was a brush arbor built by the men of our community and under this we gathered for Sunday school, which was always a union Sunday school, and church where ministers of all denominations preached from time to time as they could

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make their appointments.

We gathered at this brush-arbor for picnics and barbecues and many other things, for it was a social center.

We visited the schools in the neighboring districts after they were organized and they in turn came to visit us. I continued to teach in the rural districts, because I liked teaching in the country better than town.

In 1925, while teaching in a rural school south of Hobart, I fell, injuring my ankle, and I hired a substitute teacher to finish my term, but my ankle did not get well and for several years, I have suffered and spent all of my time and money in an effort to cure my injury. I have not succeeded as yet and I have not been able to go on with my school work.

My first term in 1893, I received \$20.00 (twenty-dollars) salary. For my last term twelve years ago, I was receiving \$110.00 per month and the teaching conditions had improved as much as the salary.