

HOWE, MARY

INTERVIEW

#9123

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
HOWE, MARY INTERVIEW 9123

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) November 1 1937

1. This legend was
secured from (name) Mary Howe

Address Ringfisher, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe

2. Origin and history of legend or story

She told of some of the early home habits, and of some of the ways
food was preserved for later use.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached

Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
November 1, 1937

Interview with
Mary Howe
Kingfisher, Okla.

Mary Howe was born in Missouri August 10, 1865. She moved to Oklahoma with her husband in 1890; he had made the run in 1889 and had a homestead. The following is the way Mrs. Howe told her story: My husband moved his family to No-Man's-Land before he came to Oklahoma to make the run in 1889. We had quite a herd of cattle and I took charge of them during his absence. I had lots of milk and it had to be taken care of, so we churned it into butter by putting it into large cans until it clabbered then stirred it until it made butter. After washing the butter good with cold water from the well, it was packed in a stone jar, by placing one layer of butter then a layer of salt. We stored it away for our trip to Oklahoma, when we knew we would be short of milk and butter. We gave the butter-milk to the pigs after using all we could at the time. We used it a lot in our cooking instead of lard.

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We ate lots of flapjacks and salt bacon on our trip to Oklahoma from No-Man's-Land. We were on the road twelve days and were certainly glad to get to ^{our} new home in Oklahoma. We ate lots of prairie chickens; we ate all that we could not sell.

I'll never forget the first hog we had to fatten out in Oklahoma. After it was ready to butcher we decided that we should sell all but the scraps of the meat after it was butchered so we could buy some barbed wire to make a fence to keep the cattle in. We had brought these cattle from No-Man's-Land, so we had to still eat flapjacks and milk gravy made with butter.

When I came down to Oklahoma, Mr. Howe already had built our first home, a dug-out in a bank. We got our first furniture from Caldwell, Kansas, going after it in a covered wagon, but we did not mind traveling this way because we had fun and were happy. We came to Oklahoma our first time in a covered wagon.