

LYLE, FRANCES M.

INTERVIEW

12034

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

LYLE, FRANCES M.

INTERVIEW

12934

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) February 11, 1938

1. Name Frances M. Lyle

2. Post Office Address Code, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth South Carolina

6. Name of Father Captain J. B. Lyle Place of birth South

Carolina

7. Name of Mother Megara C. McArthur Place of birth South

Carolina

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 sheets.

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Lula Austin,
Investigator,
February 11, 1938

Interview with Frances M. Lyle
Caddo, Oklahoma.

I came with my mother to Caddo in 1898, from Texas.

Two-thirds of the members of the First Presbyterian Church in Caddo belonged to the Northern Presbyterian and one-third to the Southern Presbyterian. The little church was about to fall down; the floor was on the ground and the tower was leaning so that it was dangerous to ring the bell. School which had been held there was dismissed, because the building was considered dangerous.

Reverend J. C. Ralston arrived in town to be our preacher and the Northern Presbyterians offered to sell or buy the interest of the Southern Presbyterians so Mr. C. N. Hancock and Reverend Ralston came to me and asked me if I would go on a note for \$700.00. I told them I would, but not to let my mother know, as she was an invalid and I did not want to worry her. Reverend Ralston went to Mr. H. Bates who was postmaster and asked him if he would lend him the money. He asked to see who was on the note. He showed him that it was Mr. Hancock and me. Mr. Bates said, "take that

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little woman's name off and put mine on the note."

We bought the church, jacked up the building and made seats and had a very nice little church. We were in need of an organ and pulpit so decided to give a pie supper and old maid auction to raise money. We advertised far and wide and all drummers who could get back for the auction were there. I was supposed to be in love with Dr. Green, a resident of our town. I told him I would put my hand on my face so he would know it was me and he could bid me in. Well, Mrs. Bates (Christine Bates) was also to be auctioned off and she and Dr. Green were at dagger points so I asked Mrs. Bates to do me a favor and put her hand on her face when they began to auction her off. She did and Dr. Green bid her in for \$10.00, thinking he was bidding on me. We had lots of fun and made plenty of money for the little church; paid our note off and bought an organ.

Reverend Ralston called a meeting to make a report but after the report was read, Mr. Hill, one of the deacons, was not satisfied with the report and asked for an investigation of the funds of the church. Mr. Travis, a

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quiet little man, rose and said, "Reverend Ralston, everything is in your name, you can do as you please." Mr. Hill circulated some unpleasant remarks so Reverend Ralston had a lawyer serve a warrant on Mr. Hill, and then Mr. Hill came to Reverend Ralston and apologized.