

LOWRY, MARION.

INTERVIEW

13747

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

LOWRY, MARION.- INTERVIEW.

13747

Field Worker's name J. T. Holland

Report made on (date) April 27, 1938

1. Name Mrs. Marion Lowry

Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) 719 W. 22nd Place.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 4 Year 1863

2. Place of birth Pike County, Missouri.

Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 _____

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Holland, W. T. Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History - S-149.
April 27, 1938.

Interview with Marion Lowry,
719 W. 22nd Place, Tulsa.

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I was born in Pike County, Missouri, July 4, 1863, and grew up there. I received my training in nursing in Missouri, and practiced my profession there until the time of my marriage to my first husband, then after his death, a few years later, I again took up the work.

My reason for coming to the Territory was that I had a sister, Mrs. C. O. Kinney, living in Owasso; she came to Owasso in 1900. Mr. Kinney was a business man of Owasso; he built the Kinney Hotel, later called the Palace, and he was also engaged in the mercantile business.

I was a registered nurse when I came to Owasso, and followed that profession for years in and around Owasso, and later in Tulsa and Tulsa County. I nursed for about forty years in Missouri and in Oklahoma.

I have worked in Tulsa and Tulsa County under a number of doctors, Drs. Rhodes, Smith, Haskell, Lemon, Bordie, Rogers, O'Hara and all seemed to be pleased with my work, as they gave me written recommendations.

Around 1900, and later on, until the railroad was extended to Tulsa, Owasso was the end of the line coming in from the north, and being such, it made the hotel business especially good there. Traveling men, drummers and prospectors would ride the trains as far as Owasso, and if going farther south would hire a horse, or horse and buggy and go overland.

Other hotels beside the Kinney were the Crab and the Alcorn; all did good business, as did several boarding houses and cafes. Owasso was really a thriving town in 1904 when I reached there. The surrounding country was a fine farming belt and lots of corn, wheat and other crops were raised. I recall seeing pen after pen of yellow corn, along the road. The farmers had gathered the corn, and had so much they had to put it in rail pens.

Owasso had a bank, too, run by a Mr. Wolf in 1904, but later he was succeeded by Mr. Hayden. The bank was burglarized while I was in Owasso, and I lost, or had some papers damaged by the blast. They had been left in the bank and were in the safe at the time of the robbery.

Dr. Chaney was one of the leading doctors of Owasso. He also owned and operated a drug store there. Dr. Kersey

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and Dr. Humphrey were two other doctors there. Other merchants and business men of Owasso of thirty years ago were: Pres Ballard, merchant; C. O. Kinney, merchant; Mr. Hutchinson, merchant. Mr. Ray was a prominent business man and owned quite a lot of property in and around Owasso.

I bought some property in Owasso, and was one of the first to contribute to a fund for the building of the first church in Owasso, a Baptist church.

Owasso was as quiet as most any new western town, but once in a while the cowboys would ride in and shoot up the town. This was done soon after my arrival there and it was certainly an exciting experience for me, as I hadn't been used to things like that. We lay down on the floor for fear they might shoot into the house; they really didn't mean any harm, I was told, just celebrating after a pay day.

After the railroad was completed into Tulsa, Owasso never grew any more, for practically all the traveling men would come on to Tulsa instead of stopping in Owasso, so the hotel business was almost ruined.