

OWENS, LEONA

INTERVIEW

,12153

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Margaret McGuireThis report made on (date) 11-4 19371. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs Leona OwensAddress Eufaula, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe Indian Creek2. Origin and history of legend or story Life story of JohnIngram, his early life in Territory, life in Civil warand up to his death.3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Margaret McGuire
Investigator
11-4-1937.

My father, John Owens, came from Texas to the Indian Territory when he was about fifteen years old. He and the rest of his family traveled in a wagon; they came over the Kansas and Texas trail until they came to the North Fork Town where they located and where there were only a few people at that time.

Mr. George W. Stidham ^{and} Mr. Charlie Smith, whose wife was a sister of Captain Wash Grayson, were there, besides a negro family there named Nero, who owned a store.

Judge G. W. Stidham and Charlie Smith owned a store or trading post there, too.

When my father returned home from the war he married Mrs. Dick Ross and they lived at North Fork town until I was about a year old and then by that time the K. and T. Railroad had been built and moved to the place where Eufaula is now. My father and other ran a hotel on the east side of Eufaula; it was on the lot where Lee Stidham lives now. This hotel burned down. My father was a carpenter by trade and he did much of the building of the

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homes and business houses of Eufaula. When my parents came to the Territory there were few conveniences of any kind and the country was rough and unsettled. Father followed the carpenter's trade as long as he was able to work and died only a few years ago.

My sister and I attended school at the Merrell Institute at Muskogee in 1890-91 then the Eufaula high school was built in 1892 and we came here to school.

When I was through school I was married to Mr. Owens, who had come up from Texas. He was a rock mason and built a number of buildings in Eufaula. He helped to build the cotton oil mill here. That was built about 1890 and he also erected the old Burdett building and the Tulley building which were all built of native stone. The Burdett building was burned three times but the lower part of it is still there and is being used for a business house.

The Territory was pretty rough when I was a child.