

LOWRENCE, MARTHA. / INTERVIEW 7884

61

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

LOWRENCE, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

7884

Field Worker's name Johnson H. Hampton

This report made on (date) October 18, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Martha Lawrence

2. Post Office Address Antlers, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 24 Year 1886

5. Place of birth Richmond, Ray County, Missouri.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Missouri

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 this form. Number of sheets attached 4

LOWRENCE, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

7384

Johnson H. Hampton,
Investigator,
October 18, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Martha Lowrence,
Antlers, Oklahoma.

I was born August 24, 1836, at Richmond, Ray County, Missouri. I was about fourteen years old when my father moved to the Cherokee Nation near Porum. We came over in a covered wagon drawn by a pair of oxen and we came over by ourselves. We tried to get some more families to come with us but they were afraid of the Indians and would not come. We had some kinfolks who had come to this country and were located there at Porum and had written to my father that it was a fine place, so my father decided that he would come to this new country, and we came on over, but when we landed in this country the country around Porum at that time was wild and there were but few white people living there. Porum was a little village.

When we got located my father did some odd jobs around until we got in shape to get out on the farm and we then went to farming as this was a good farming country then. We raised corn and other farm products and made a good living

LOWRENCE, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

7884

- 2 -

on the farm and we raised cattle and hogs while we were on this farm and had plenty to eat and made a little money. That was a good country and we did well for newcomers.

When we first landed in this country we had no furniture except what we had in our wagon but after we lived here for about a year we bought some new furniture for our housekeeping, and started out in life once more. We did our necessary trading at Porum. We did not need very much to live on and we had to be saving with our food in order to get by until we could make enough to live like white people. This little village of Porum has spread out and is a pretty good town now.

At the time my father located at this place there was no school, not even a church, but after we had been there for a few years they built up a school and some churches, I did not get to attend the school very much so I can't read to do any good but can get by with what education I have. I never attended an Indian camp-meeting nor saw any Indian ball games. I have heard of them but I never attended one of them.

LOWRENCE, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

7884

- 3 -

We had some experience with the Indians up there and the Indians whom we knew were all good people so far as we were concerned, and did not bother us in anyway, as they were all our friends. Of course, there ^{were} some Indians who were bad and would kill one another. They all carried guns all the time and would fight among themselves, but they did not bother the white people who tried to do what was right and attended to their own business as they should. That country had some white men who married into the Indian families and raised some boys who were pretty bad. I don't know but I think that most of the white men who married the Indian women there were outlaws to start with, and of course the boys were raised up with guns in their hands and did not know anything else except to fight and kill, and that country raised up some mean half-breeds. When we left Missouri to come over to the Indian country, the neighbors there did not want us to come for they said that the Indians would kill us and scalp us and burn us up and that they were bad people, but Father said that they could not be any worse than the white people who were living in the Indian country and if they could live in this country and get by we could too for we would not get into any trouble with them, and would attend

LOWRENCE, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

7884

- 4 -

strictly to our business and let them alone, so that is what we did. We did not molest the Indians but Father traded with them and would sell them corn or anything they wanted and they were just as honest as anyone could be. I did not see any difference in the Indians from any other people and we had good neighbors among them and we children played with them. We then moved to the Choctaw Nation where we have lived ever since and the Choctaws are about the same as the Cherokees. The Choctaws are good people to live by and they are just as honest as they can be.

My father died and is buried near Porum where we first located, and my mother died and was buried in Missouri before we moved to this new country. I am now living here in Antlers.