

ORENDORFF, S. H. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

8273

248

ORENDORFF, S. H. (MRS.) INTERVIEW

8273

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

Field Worker's name Ruth Kerbo

This report made on (date) July 26, 1937

1. Name Mrs. S. H. Orendorff

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 329 West Tyler St.

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

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father Wash Cunningham Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. 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 _____

ORENDORFF, S. H. (M. S.)

INTERVIEW.

8273

An Interview with Mrs. S. H. Orendorff, Mangum.
By - Ruth Kerbo - Field Worker.
July 26th, 1937.

Mrs. S. H. Orendorff was only five years old when she came to Greer County with her parents from Grath County, Texas, in 1892.

Mrs. Orendorff recalls that a flood had destroyed the town of Frazier several months prior to the arrival of her parents at Martha. The flood waters from Bitter Creek and Salt Fork River also washed away the Martha Cemetery and the site of the cemetery was moved to a higher location.

Her father, Mr. Cunningham, was a cattleman and farmer, and lived at Martha until his death in 1915. Her mother, Mrs. Wash Cunningham, is still a resident of Martha.

Mrs. Orendorff recalls that Quannah Parker and other Comanche Indians were frequent visitors in the Martha community in the early days. Settlers would sell eggs to the Comanche Indians.

Kiowa and Comanche Indians who penetrated to

the settlement were especially fond of sweet potatoes. In fact, Mrs. Cunningham would visit the Indian reservation and trade sweet potatoes for trinkets. After several such exchanges, the Cunningham family had plenty of shawls, beads, moccasins and other articles of Indian manufacture.

Sweet potatoes sold for only 25¢ a bushel, and the Indians were wont to drive hard bargains.

Mrs. Orendorff attended school at Martha in a one-room building. A blizzard descended on the section in 1898 and school was dismissed. The children were unable to return to their homes on foot and spent that night at the home of the nearest neighbor. While returning to school the next morning Mrs. Orendorff suddenly felt very cold and then comfortably warm. She sat down by the roadside, where she was discovered by a schoolmate, Joe Gee, who carried her to the farm home of Henry Doughty.

She was unconscious three hours and awoke to

ORENDORFF, S. H. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

8273

3

find her feet and hands immersed in basins of snow. Her feet and hands had been frozen; and the popular home remedy was being used for her treatment.

Mrs. Orendorff recalls that her parents made the trip to Greer County in a covered wagon. Her father, Wash Cunningham, bought the claim or squatter's right, from the Reverend Medlin, who was the first Baptist Minister in Greer County.

Mrs. Orendorff now resides in Mangum. Her husband is a carpenter and paper hanger by trade.