

OSBORN, MATTIE K. JONES

INTERVIEW

#8899

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Investigator; Ida A. Merwin,  
October 12, 1937.

Interview with Mattie K. Jones Osborn,  
Ht. 1, Morrison, Oklahoma.

Osborn                    October 27, 1868,  
St. Clair County, Missouri.

Parents                  W. A. Jones, Alabama.  
                                  Mannah (Copenhagen) Jones, Missouri.  
                                  Both buried at Morrison, Oklahoma.

In March, 1894 I came with my parents from Kansas to Oklahoma. Father had made the run in the opening of the Cherokee Strip in September, 1892, but had failed to get any land.

He made the race in a spring-wagon, driving a team of mules.

A few days after the race he bought eighty acres of land from Jim McCurry and built a small building to be used as a home.

The trip from Kansas was made in covered wagons with three teams. He also drove fifteen head of cattle and brought furniture and necessary things for the home with us.

He located on the land father had bought which was in Section 15, T1, R2 East in Noble County. The house was one-

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room, built of cottonwood boards that Father had bought from a sawmill and this with a tent made the home for the family for three years; then Father added one room to the building and by putting a partition in it we had a three room house.

It was several years before another house was built and when it was, the old one was made into a barn and is being used for a barn today.

The water for household use was hauled from a distance of two miles until a well could be dug.

In 1896 I was married and lived on the farm joining Father's farm on the north. This land my husband had secured in the race in September, 1893.

The home was a very small shack in which Mr. Osborn had "batched" before we were married. We soon built a dug-out and this together with the small house made our home for two years when we built a granary and used it for a house for three years, then we sold out and went to Port Cobb.

Our crops were kafir corn at first, followed by wheat. Wheat was the main crop.

At Port Cobb we secured some school land and built a three-room, story and a half house and lived there for ten years.

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The crops on this land were mostly corn which we fed to hogs; we dealt more in hogs than in any other kind of stock.

About 1913 we returned to Noble County and since Mr. Osborn's death, I have made my home with my brother, Jack Jones, and we are now living on the land which Father bought in 1893.

During the first five years after I was married, while living in Noble County, we experienced some terribly hard times but those days were happy days and we seemed to get along.

We could not get a well on this land to supply us with water. We drilled to a depth of one hundred and eleven feet (111ft) without success and had to haul water for household use all the time we lived there. I became so stingy with water that after we moved where we are now, we had plenty of water but I still used it sparingly.

For fuel we used wood.

Our furniture consisted of a camp stove, a small table, and a bed, just what Mr. Osborn had used before we were married and it was some time before we could buy other necessary articles.

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During the year of 1897 I raised a good crop of tomatoes but they were the small pear shape, red tomatoes, and these were very tedious to prepare for canning but I canned forty-three quarts and was proud of them.

We bought our supplies at Ferry, and the trip required an extra long day. If the trip was made in a day, the distance was about sixteen miles.

When we had to market we hauled to Ferry, sometimes taking two days for the trip.

During the winter of 1894-95 Father was caught in a blizzard and had to find shelter to keep from freezing. The people were always ready to help others and glad to give shelter to anyone who was caught out as he was.

Father helped to haul the lumber from Ponca City that was used in the first school house in Birch District, Number 45. This school house was also used for Church services and for other neighborhood meetings.