

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

Field Worker's name Naomi L. Garringer

This report made on (date) July 16, 1937

Name Nellie Gaitear Hart

Post Office Address Medford, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) 3 miles west; 1/2 north of Medford

DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 22 Year 1879

Place of birth Kansas

Name of Father Joseph Gaitear Place of birth Canada

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother Ellen Reed Place of birth Virginia

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 _____.

Interview with Nellie Gaitear Hart
Medford, Oklahoma

Field Worker - Naomi L. Garringer
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 16, 1937

Nellie Gaitear was born October 22, 1879, and came to the Cherokee Strip with her parents. Her father made the race when the Cherokee Strip was opened and staked a claim 4 miles west of Lamont. He had two contests, one being with a man who had a good job. One family lived on one side of the creek and Mr. Gaitear built a sod house on the other side, and brought his family in the Spring. They lived this way for some time. Mr. Gaitear won the contest after a hard struggle.

The first school was held by a maiden lady who had staked a claim. She took subscription, so much sod to be broken out for her for each child that came to school. She held the school in her sod house on her claim. The second year they

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built a school-house out of green cottonwood and when it dried out, it had large cracks in it which they filled with mud to help keep out the cold. Nellie Gaitear was one of the first teachers in Grant County.

