

PARMAN, JULIA A. INTERVIEW

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

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PARMAN, JULIA A.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford.This report made on (date) April 14, 19381. Name Julia A. Parman.2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) East Caddo St.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 25 Year 18885. Place of birth Dallas County, Texas.6. Name of Father James Gabarith Place of birth OhioOther information about father Farmer7. Name of Mother Mary Boiel Place of birth IllinoisOther information about mother Housewife.

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 4.

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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator.
April 14, 1938.

Interview with Julia A. Parman
Cordell, Oklahoma
Born November 25, 1868
Father-James Gabbrith
Mother-Mary Boiel.

We came from Parker County, Texas, to Cordell, arriving here December 2, 1896, and we filed on one hundred and sixty acres of land, three miles from Cordell.

We built a half dugout twenty feet long and put a shingle roof on it.

We came to this country in covered wagons and drove twenty head of cattle; were on the road fifteen days. A terrible rain and blizzard came, the ground froze and we had a bad time driving our cattle but we had a worse time trying to cook, as we couldn't find wood. Most of the time we would do without anything to eat and we had four small children; they would cry for something to eat before we could get to a creek to get wood to make a fire, but we all stayed well except Mr. Parman's mother who was with us; she was very old and hard to handle and take care of.

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Mr. Parman would freight from El Reno to get our groceries and I would stay home and care for the children and stock. One time an awful snow storm came, Mr. Parman was gone for three weeks and we almost froze; we got without food also.

We scided out our land with a sod walking plow; we planted cotton, corn and Kaffir corn and raised very good crops. We had our cotton ginned and wrapped the bales with cotton goods, tied it with bailing wire, hauled it to Vernon, Texas, and sold it for three cents a pound. Mr. Parman walked and plowed with a Georgia stock and used a walking planter to plant the cotton.

We had very good neighbors; we could borrow anything they had and we would lend anything we had.

For our schools we had a dugout covered with dirt and a fireplace in it made of native rock, we burned wood for fuel. We would go to the canyons to get wood for the school. The school was named Buzzard Roost; we had church in the same place and in the summer time the men would build brush arbors and have church services in them. We had old time religion those days.

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For the wild game we had quail, prairie chickens, and rabbits. We surely did eat wild game. There were many prairie dogs and rattlesnakes. One time Mr. Parman took me to a doctor as I was very sick. We left two children at home, one was eleven and one six years of age. They saw a large rattlesnake coming to the dugout door, the ax was in the dugout so they killed the snake with the ax, then stretched it out for us to see when we got home; the snake had eighteen rattlers.

One time there was a panther on ^{Cavalry} ~~Calvary~~ Creek and the men gathered in a big bunch and killed the panther. The wolves were bad also and there were lots of bobcats. Sometimes the bobcats would jump out of trees on people who were riding horseback. One man was killed by a bobcat close to our place.

I remember that when we were coming to this country we crossed the creek at Big Jake's crossing. An old Indian, Big Tree, was there at the crossing and he wanted one dollar for us to cross. Mr. Parman pulled his Winchester on him and he rode off. Two days later three

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families wanted to cross and one man cut Big Tree open.

He started walking off holding his entrails, but died only a few steps away.

We didn't have any roads nor bridges and there were lots of rough places on the trails. Often we would have to get out of the wagons and walk across and the men would drive the wagons and teams across.

We women all dressed alike, with calico dresses and sun-bonnets, no stockings and very glad to get one pair of shoes a year. I didn't have a sewing machine, I made all our clothes with my fingers, even made my husband and boys' suits out of heavy jeans cloth.

As for our eats, we had bacon, sorghum molasses and beans; we made our sorghum, raised beans and thrashed them, enough to last us one year. We raised corn and shelled it, took it to the mill and had it ground for our meal to make cornbread with. We had biscuits every Sunday morning for breakfast. We baked our cakes with sorghum, didn't ever have sugar to use, we would make layer cakes with sorghum and cook dried apples or peaches then mash them and put them between the layers of the cake and it was really good.