

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

#8732

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) September 27, 193 7

1. Name Manda Hastings

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1502 West Broadway.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 15 Year 1957

5. Place of birth Kemper County, Mississippi.

6. Name of Father Dave Butchee Place of birth Don't know.

Other information about father Fought in Civil War.

7. Name of Mother Loza Butchee Place of birth Don't know.

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 _____.

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

#8732

An Interview with Mrs. Manda Hastings, Elk City.

By - Ethel Mae Yates, Investigator.

September 27, 1937.

I came with my parents from Mississippi in the year of 1870 to Texas when I was twelve years old. We moved in covered wagons with three yoke of oxen and one mule in the lead.

I married James Hasting in Hood County, Texas, went back to Krath and stayed there three years. These moves were made in covered wagons with ox teams and we lived in tents most of the time and cooked on campfires. We came to the Territory in 1883; my husband and baby and my brother, John Butchee, and I came in a covered wagon with three horses. We came to Weatherford, then to Jacksboro and to Vernon and crossed Red River at Doan's Crossing; we had to ford the river. Then we came to Altus and camped there for two months, lived in a tent and cooked on a campfire out in front of the tent. I took in washing and my husband worked at odd jobs while there. We then went from Altus to Mangum. There was not much of anything at Mangum but a public well. We stopped there and watered our stock; I have been in Mangum since and tried to find that well but

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

#8732

2

failed. We went from Mangum to Sweetwater and camped one night at a Mr. Patersons, and went from there to Mobeetie, Texas, and camped on Red Deer Creek one night waiting for a crew of men to come, who were going to work on a railroad that was starting through. My husband went to work on the railroad and I washed for the railroad men and lived in a tent. There was a fort at Mobeetie and while there an Indian soldier came riding up; I was frightened but some of the men told me that this Indian was harmless and just wanted something to eat. The Indian rode up and wanted to know if we had some "Chuckaway" and we fed him and he went on. We stayed there for two months and then went back over on Sweetwater Creek and worked on the farm for Mr. Paterson for a while, lived in a tent and cooked on a camp fire.

We went to Navajo, took up three lots and made a dugout, three steps deep; we walled our dugout up with logs and my husband dug the first well that was dug there and built a rock house for Buckskin Joe who had come in there and was trying to start a town, but failed, and there is nothing there now but a little cemetery.

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

#8732

3

In December, 1887, we had to go back to Texas to look after my husband's mother; we went back on the same route over which we had come and I had to do the driving. We stayed in Texas five years, then came back to the Territory, came the same route until we got to Mangum, went from there to Delhi, took up a claim one mile south of Delhi and dug a dugout. We put in a crop but the drouth hit us so we didn't make any thing. My husband got a job on the J. Buckle Ranch and was line rider that winter.

The next year we tried farming but there was another drouth and my husband left in June and went with a herd of cattle over into the Strip and stayed there two months. I cooked on a fireplace and it got so hot that I tried to cook outdoors and the sun was so hot that it almost cooked me out there. Our dugout was dug back in a bank, walled up with logs and covered with sod, and I would go over on Hay Stack Mountain and get wood. There had been overflows which had washed up roots and grubs which we would hawh for fuel. It was here that I would put two yoke of oxen to the wagon and take my three small children, the smallest one in my lap, and

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

#8732

4

we would go three miles to get water. When my husband came home everything was burned up. We had cut the feed but had not stacked it and I told my husband that he had better stack it for winter. He said that we were not going to stay there, that it was too hot and dry. This country was all known then as Greer. We went east down close to a salt spring, seven miles south of Chickasha in what is now Grady County, and rented a place from a man by the name of John Brown.

We still lived in a dugout and cooked on the fireplace. We farmed and made good, had to walk and break our land and plant our crops by hand. We had not been there long until they built a little two-room house for us in front of the dugout. It was here that my husband bought my first cook stove and a heating stove; this was the first heater that I had ever warmed by. We lived here five years and worked for the same man, and then in 1898 my husband came to Custer County and brought a load of lumber with him, and filed on a place and built a little box house, and in January, 1899, we moved to our new home. We were on the road three nights and the first two nights it was so warm that we just threw our beds down on the ground and slept, and the third night we camped on West Barnitz

HASTINGS, MANDA.

INTERVIEW.

#8732

5

Creek and just as we were ready to go to bed it began to mist and we had to get in our wagon and sit up all night. We were three miles from Foss which had just one store then. We were three miles east of the Roger Mills line and two miles from the Washita line. We stayed there until 1907, then sold out and moved over in Washita County, lived there a while and came to Elk City in 1925. My husband died May 14, 1934, and is buried in the Page Cemetery. I am the mother of eight children, all of whom lived to be grown.