

PARKER, ANNIE B.

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris

This report made on (date) May 19 1937

1. Name Mannie B Parker

2. Post Office Address 415 E. 9th. St.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1867

5. Place of birth Ohio

6. Name of Father M. B. Parker Place of birth Ohio

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Sarah Parker Place of birth Kansas

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 22.

Amelia F. Harris  
Field Worker  
May 19, 1937.

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Interview with Mannie B. Parker  
415 E. 9th St.  
Born June 1867. Ohio.  
Father-M. B. Parker.  
Mother-Sarah Parker.

I came to Oklahoma many years before statehood and worked on the Hats and Crutcher (Brand) ranch, which was owned and managed by Mr. <sup>Montford</sup> ~~Harford~~ Johnston half-blood Chickasaw Indian. He had about 30,000 herd of fine blood-ed stock, and in this herd were about 4000 head of fine "Red Buck" stock of horses. We were continuously on a round-up.

The great Mr. Payne, who was largely responsible for the country being opened for settlement, has spent days with us at our mess camp

Open fires always. The menu for breakfast would be hot biscuit, fat bacon, sorghum and black coffee; for noon, we would have biscuit, corn bread, bacon or wild game, Irish potatoes, and navy beans; and supper would be a repetition with sorghum added. In the fall and winter, we always had plenty of beef. All of the cow hands seemed contented.

I had a Chickasaw Indian pal, Lon Grey, about six feet two inches tall, a good Indian. He and I used to ride the lines from about where the Santa Fe tracks are

now, west to Lightning Creek. Early one morning on our usual route (we always went to the south Canadian and crossed to "Pond Creek" Ranch), we found the Canadian River out of bank. Our custom was to cross regardless of how high the river was but this time courage failed me, but not the Indian. He was a good swimmer and he rode right into the river. After he had gotten out about 300 yards in the stream, a large cottonwood tree came floating down the river, and one limb ran under and caught the horse between the hind legs and would have drowned him had it not been for the Indian jumping off and onto the limb and thus freeing the horse. He then caught onto his horse's tail and swam out. Len was a good hunter and he sold many coyote and coon pelts for a dollar each.

~~I have driven cattle over the Chisholm trail from Tarrant Co., Texas, to Hugo, Colorado many times. Went through Lawton, and here we always gave to the Comanche Indians two fat beeves, to keep them from stampeding the cattle. If we failed to do this, they would ride through the middle of the herd yelling and "hollering" which frightened the cattle. Then we would~~

lose four or five before we could get them corralled again.

In July 1889, Curt Howe (one of the cow hands) and myself were driving 800 head of cattle over t Deer Creek to a pasture s nthwest of Guthrie. We had to cross Lightning Creek. The day previous we almost had a water spout and Lightning Creek was out of banks; the cattle were thirsty and some of them plunged into the Creek and we had to do something quick as the current was taking them down stream. Curt Howe had saved up \$14.00 to finish paying on his "filing of a claim". He had this in a pocket book and he didn't want to get it wet so he put the purse on top of his head and pulled his hat on over it. Then he rode in- t the Creek to try t force the cattle across, and when his horse and the cattle were caught in a big drift, in his excitement he grabbed off his hat to fight the cattle back with and lost his money. His horse, too, was caught under the drift and dro ned. He crawled t. the bank on drift wood. The next day I went to the creek and cut his saddle loose from his horse and found hi's money. It had fallen in a hollow tree.

I was in every run from 89 to 93. I drew down lots in Perry and Lawton and 160 acres, one mile north and two miles west of Norman.

In 1893 I married Mary E. Foster and took her to my one room box house on my claim and hard work started for both of us. I had one grey horse and \$20.00 in money. She had a school warrant for \$72.00. I took her warrant and bought some corn and a horse to go with mine; also bought an iron bed, a cook stove and some groceries. I made a table and put up some shelves out of dry goods boxes. We sat on boxes, too. Wife made a tick and we filled it with hay and this was our first mattress.

Before I could get much plowing done my horse died, then a neighbor let me use a team for its feed. In this way I had about fifty acres broken up by spring. I sowed twenty acres in wheat and made a bumper crop. That summer I worked for the thrasher to have my wheat thrashed. I raised plenty of feed and twelve bales of cotton; sold it for five cents per pound.

Wife was just as busy as I. She started with nine hens and she kept them setting all the time, she was so eager to help. She raised over 250 chickens and turkeys.

The Christmas of 1894, she sold 400 pounds of turkeys and about two dozen young roasters and I took eggs to town in the churn and our one tub. We sold the eggs for five cents per dozen. I have forgotten what the turkeys and chickens brought but not very much, but she paid for the groceries and bought a piece of furniture every two or three months.

We didn't have any fruit on the farm then except sand plums and wild grapes. She made jelly and jam out of these. She also raised a fine garden and she canned everything in it except the Irish potatoes and turnips. We heeled up these for winter use, and tied our onions to the rafters.

In 1895 we got along fine. I used what money I got from the sale of farm products and worked with the thrasher, put improvements on the farm. It seemed that ever since we made, God blessed our effort for we prospered more and more each year. We had a fairly good home, plenty of stock raised and butchered our own meat. We always smoked our meat with hickory chips and used the "Cracklins" to make our soap with. We put wood

ashes in a hopper, poured water over it, and made lye for house hold use this way.

In the meantime our family had increased to five. We had three fine boys now and we didn't have to work so hard. Our farm was clear and we had been blessed with wonderful crops.

When Larnes was Governor of Oklahoma Territory and Clayton Adair and R. P. Wagoner were Representatives from our county, they were instrumental in Norman getting the university. The university first started in an old stone building on Main street and the first appropriation made for it was used to build a brick building on its present site. This burned down, but was soon rebuilt and buildings were added as appropriations were made.

In 1912 we moved to Oklahoma City.

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In 1914 wife was president of the Oklahoma County Democratic Club.

That same year Oklahoma City had the worst flood in history. Mayor Cargill called my wife and said. "get your folks together and help us take care of the water stricken people". She called the Democratic ladies, also



all the churches for help. Jerry Smith was Chief of police and he and staff worked faithfully. The Masonic Temple and every vacant building were used to take care of these people. Wife had an office in the Grain Exchange building and took charge of and handled three carloads of "Near east Relief" clothing. There were over 1400 people without homes.

Wife worked through three sessions of the legislature as an employee. In 1925 she was Chief Clerk in the Committee room; in 1927 she ~~was~~ Mrs. J. Edward Jones wrote in long hand the permanent record of legislature of Secretary of the State; and 1935 she was Committee Clerk and handled all the keys.

She is also past President of American War Mothers Chapter No. 4 and she got the first Charter of the 1914 Democratic Club in the state of Oklahoma I have an '89ers years certificate of life membership.