

HOFFINES, BETTIE

INTERVIEW.

4017

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INDEX CARDS:

Greer County

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

Field Worker's name ZAIDEE B. BLAND

This report made on (date) May 11, 1937 1937

1. Name BETTY HUFFINES

2. Post Office Address DUKE, OKLAHOMA

3. Residence address (or location) IN THE COUNTRY

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month MARCH Day 17 Year 1872

5. Place of birth GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS.

6. Name of Father J. N. Kato Place of birth TEXAS

Other information about father Civil War Veteran

7. Name of Mother MARY E. KATO Place of birth _____

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 _____.

Experiences of a Pioneer of Oklahoma.

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Mrs. Bettie Huffines, Duke, Okla.

May 11, 1937.

By - Zaidee B. Bland, Field Worker.

When I first came to this country back in the eighties everything was wild. Wild people, wild animals, wild cows.

My husband was a trader and we lived in our covered wagon, never staying long in one place.

There were a lot of Nesters living in dugouts and once in a while we would camp near a little trading post for months. These stores were always located near a spring of good water or at the crossing of some of the biggest rivers where people often had to camp for several days before they could cross. We drove two black mares and kept the same two horses for years. I had a feather bed made of wild goose and wild duck feathers, plenty of pillows and quilts and a tick sewed up that we filled every fall with shredded shucks from corn.

If we did stay at a place long enough to set up housekeeping in a dugout or some abandoned log hut, our beds were bunks built on the wall.

As we wandered around over the plains, we would be without water for our horses for hours and when we would be getting near water, the horses would smell it and run away with the wagon to get to the water. This used to frighten us until we learned that they smelled the water and were so thirsty was the reason they

ran.

In the western part of Oklahoma there was plenty of wild game - antelope, wild turkey, quail, prairie chicken, Plenty of fish in the streams. Wild grapes and plums. We liked it best in what was called the Nation. There were many more animals and much more fruit to eat. Many of the Indian places had large orchards of peaches, plums, apricots, apples, ^{and} pears. In the woods there were several kinds of nuts; pecans, walnuts, hickory nuts, black-haws, red-haw, persimmons. All good to eat.
