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

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Field Worker's name Amelia K. Harris,

This report made on (date) January 12, 1938

1. Name Mamie Page,

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1828 West 36th Street,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 28 Year 1884

5. Place of birth Ohio

6. Name of Father Edward Jenkins, Place of birth England

Other information about father Came to Oklahoma and took up school land.

7. Name of Mother Sarena Jenkins, Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother Dead

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 6

Amelia F. Harris,
Journalist,
January 12, 1938.

An Interview with Mamie Page,
1826 West 36th Street,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

My husband and I decided to try for a homestead so we got a map of Oklahoma and decided we would try to get land near Oklahoma City. When my husband came first to Oklahoma City there was nothing but a general merchandise store, blacksmith shop and a log house which was used for a post office where the cattlemen got their mail.

We wanted to get good land with water and near a railroad, so we studied the map closely and decided to go east near the river. We had the filing papers all made out ready for the land office except description when the Race took place in Oklahoma, April 22, 1889.

My husband succeeded in obtaining 160 acres one and one-half miles east of Oklahoma City along the Canadian River. He stuck his stake up, jumped back on his horse and ran all the way to the land office, but he was not left in undisputed possession, for two contestants

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immediately showed up and the fight which followed was one of the longest in Oklahoma County. It took six years and he had to sell twenty acres to pay attorney fees before the case was finally settled in our favor.

During all this time we had been improving, feeling confident of winning. Our first home was a small round tent similar to the Indian tepees. We made a good garden and were friendly with the other two contestant families. My husband obtained work in the land office and that fall we had saved enough money to have a one-room box house built and I lived in this one room until we got a patent to the land.

By that time the town was growing fast and coming our way so we had thirty acres plotted into town lots and it was called the Minnie Page addition. This addition started from the north side of East 4th ^{and} East and extended to the south side of Reno and east to Eastern Avenue. We sold these lots for 500.00 for corner lots and \$400.00 for inside lots. I divided fifty acres of

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the land into ten acre tracts and rented these tracts to truck growers for \$100.00 per tract. The land was rich bottom land and produced well. I let a seed company have ten acres of bottom land to get it cleared up and broke out. They planted watermelons on the land, which were the finest I ever saw. They grew them for the seed only and they built a long table and let people come in and eat all the melons they wanted, provided they left the seed on the table. They had a man to gather up the seed daily.

The year of the World's Fair at Saint Louis I planted sixty-five acres of Golden Bantam corn and averaged sixty-five bushels to the acre. I went over the field and selected one hundred ears of the best ears, then I selected twelve of the best ears of corn from this group and sent them to the world's Fair at Saint Louis and won the silver medal. This was second prize. The first prize was a gold medal. This prize won me a lot of publicity, for people came from Arkansas, Texas and all over Oklahoma to buy this corn for seed and paid me \$1.00 per bushel at the crib

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and I got more mail orders than I could fill. Therefore I had never received more than 30 cents per bushel for my corn.

I also raised fine white Plymouth Rock chickens, which always took the blue ribbons at all the fairs or picnics. Eggs did not bring a very good price. I often walked from home to town with a bucket of eggs and sold them for 10 cents per dozen and took that in groceries.

Amusements were limited to square dances at the country schoolhouse or spelling bees and debates. We always had the 4th of July picnic with a merry-go-round pulled by a mule. There were always a few contests. At one of these picnics I won a prize of \$10.00 for driving ten nails in a 2 X 4. There were five ladies in the contest; it was at night and was staged on the platform where we danced. I drove every nail in, I didn't bend a one.

Before the silent picture shows there were the nickleodians. Every Saturday we came to town and visited

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all the nickleodians.

The first year we were on our farm there were seven deer that ranged in the river bottom. Every morning they would come out to upland and graze; the upland was where Styles Park is today. Then, there were scrubby post oak trees and good grass and they would feed here in the morning then go back to the bottom in the evening. When we first put up our fence they came to it and snorted and walked up and down. Pretty soon the leader jumped over and the others followed. They did this for several months until someone killed them all.

When we first came to Oklahoma there were haystacks all over the country. The cattlemen knew they would have to give up their pastures and free range and they had all of the grass cut and stacked and later moved it to their pastures.

When we first came to Oklahoma City the town was full of saloons. There were two saloons to every other business.

People were more sociable and neighborly in the earlier

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days. If people were sick we visited them, set up with them, washed and cooked for them; we felt this much as our duty. But now things are changed. We scarcely know our neighbor. With all our hardships I prefer those times to our present times. Many of us fought against the progress of modern times. I remember when they laid the tracks for the first street car on Main Street, John Frosberg owned and ran a general merchandise store in the 200 block on Main. He was mad and said if they were going to put one of "them things" in why didn't they run them up the alley, that the street cars would scare the horses and they would have to move the drinking fountain for horses and all the hitching posts. Many of the merchants opposed running the street car down Main Street but the town progressed anyway.

I still own seventy-six acres of my homestead. I have it leased for oil to Art Franklin and have six producing wells bringing me in a nice income. It was a lucky day for us when we came to Oklahoma.