

INDEX CARDS

Openings--Cheyenne and Arapaho
Outlaws--Oklahoma Territory
Cheyennes and Arapahoes
Pioneer life--Oklahoma Territory
Churches--Oklahoma Territory
Schools-- Oklahoma Territory

Field Worker: Amelia Harris
March 11, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. C. D. (Myrtle) Peck (White)
127 Northwest 8th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BORN Chico, Texas
February 16, 1885

PARENTS Father G. W. Yeakly, West Virginia (Deceased)
Mother, Maggie Yeakly, Texas

I was nine years old, my brother three years, when my widowed mother made up her mind to try for an allotment in the "Cherokee Strip."

She left my brother and I with relatives, and made the trip from Cisco, Texas, to El Reno. The trains were crowded there was only standing room, however, my mother was very determined so she succeeded in securing an 160 acres of land in what was known as "K" county about five miles west of Arapaho. She filed for her location and lived in a dug out in Arapaho, paid \$16.00 per month.

She was there only one month when she sent for my brother and me. We boarded with a prominent family by the name of Glover. This family lived near the 160 acres that my mother filed on. We were only to remain at Glover's until our house, one room and dugout, were finished.

There were quite a few men at the Glover home, which we later learned were outlaws. I well remember the first meal we ate with them. It was on a long table and there was plenty of food. Each man that came in was wearing a gun, which he pulled out of his

holster, and placed beside his plate. When we saw them do this, we were so frightened we could scarcely eat, no one volunteered an explanation nor did my Mother ask any questions. We were there about a month.

They (Mr. Glover, Miller, Red Buck, Taggart and others,) were good shots, I have forgotten their names. I remember Mr. Taggart well. He was an excellent shot he could hit a target with his left hand as easy as he could with his right. About seven or eight of these men never ate a meal without their guns beside their plate. We later learned that Mr. Glover's home was a rendezvous for outlaws, but they were all kind and courteous to us.

After we moved to our own home Mother leased 640 acres of Mad Wolfe's land, 160 acres of a Mr. Spears, 160 acres of Mr. Shackelford, 160 acres from "Dutch Annie" We had to lease the Indian land through the Indian Agent, Mr. Avant. We never had any trouble with the Indians, when Mad Wolf came to us Mother would give him something to eat and he would leave.

Getting back to my story we leased this land and had our cattle (500 head) brought from Seymour, Texas to our claim and lease. We did well and prospered, no one stole our cattle; the outlaws often drove our cattle back into our pastures if they found them out.

Mother was very brave and a good shot too, as game was plentiful she kept our table well supplied. Coyotes were a source of much trouble, they killed young calves and pigs and were constantly on the watch for these marauders.

Of our 160 acres we filed on, 60 acres bordered on Barnett Creek which was very fertile, we raised most every thing we ate and gave some to the Indians too.

The climate seemed much colder than than now, water froze o over night in our water buckets. We had feather beds and plenty of cover and wood so never suffered.

The neighbors were always kind and considerate and all tried to help each other. Doctors were scarce and far away and my Mother often acted as midwife, in childbirth for some neighbor.

There were no schools near, so Mother sent me to her people at Bowie, Texas to go to school, in the summer time we went to Sunday School and Church in a bigdugout for several years.

We had traveling preachers twice a month.

The Indians had many peculiar ceremonies and customs. I remember one year it was very dry and we needed rain. The cattle were suffering and crops burning up, so a band of these Indians got to gether for a sun dance, to implore their God's to make it rain, they chanted and beat their Tom Toms and danced in a circle for about two days and nights. Sure enough it rained and we were saved. The again the Indians came and warned Mother that there would be a big rise of rivers and wash crops away. There was not any indication of rain, but these Indians moved their tepees, horses and dogs up on a hill. The rain came in torrents, almost a cloud burst, the rivers overflowed into our fields, destroyed crops, washed fences down, and did lots of damage. We often wondered how they got their warning, how they knew .

These Indian women did such beautiful bead work, neck chains, bracelets, moccasins and elaborate buck skin dresses. We bought lots of their work,

We lived on our claim for twelve years then my Mother had a sale and sold all her cattle, horses, hogs and land. We moved to Clinton where we children went to school. Later Mother sold her home there and now lives at Foss, Oklahoma, a small town between Clinton and Elk City. If you would contact her you would get some good history.
