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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on April 19, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Silla Perryman, Inrollment No. 5332, Creek Nation

2. Post Office address Dewar, Okla.

3. Residence address Northwest part of Dewar is her allotment
and she still has a home there by herself.

4. Date of birth. Exact date is unknown, not later than 1828

There are supposed to be six generations under her and I
know of three, for sure. Some say she is 121 years old

5. Place of birth Don't know

6. Name of father _____

7. Name of mother _____

No of sheets attached _____

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One of the Oldest Indians.

Mrs. Silla Perryman is a very old Indian and she gets mixed up in some things. This interview wont be very long for she got tired and wanted to get her pipe and have a smoke. She wouldn't tell me what she wanted, the neighbors told me after she hurried back to her house. She is almost blind but can see things that are close to her. She walks about a block with a cane easily but has to be lead if she is going farther. She has lived ^{on} ~~in~~ that place almost always as it is her allotment. She had another house about one-eighth of a mile west of the present one years ago.

When I came to this country

(As told by Mrs. Silla Perryman)

I came to this country about two years before I was a woman. We came to Waw-see-da town, between here and Texas. Waw-see-da had a big crop of beans and they let us have what we wanted. There were more men than women. Their women were left behind. Some had wives and some didn't.

(I can't help but believe she was talking about the Civil War but that would make her about 85. I would like your opinion on it)

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Early Indian Marriages

In the early days when a man and girl wanted to get married they would just go to living together. Sometimes the man would have two or three wives. It didn't make any difference how poor he was or how much he had, it was just if he wanted and could get more than one. When the preachers came they started to marrying the Indians.

Indian Homes.

Our houses were log without floors or windows but with a door that opened and shut.

Indian Way of Washing Clothes

We would take our clothes down to the creek and put them on a rock, one at a time, and take a paddle that was made for that purpose, more round than long and had a handle, and whip them until they would come clean. We used soap that was made from grease and lye made from ashes.

Indian Farming

In the Civil War we ran off and left everything standing, hogs, cattle and everything. When we were told it was "Peace" we came back and everything was gone. We didn't raise cotton.

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but had plenty of corn, both Sofkey and white flour corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts and rice. Our hoes and plows were homemade, wooden handles and steel blades.

Eufaula, Only Town.

There wasn't any Okmulgee, just ~~Okmul~~ Eufaula. We would go there on horses and get our things in a sack, put the sack across the horse and come home. We got money from coal royalties.

Wild Ponies.

The way we would get horses was: The men would find a bunch and they would run them and run them till they were tired. They would have fresh horses to change to when the ones they were riding got tired. The dogs would help to run them. When they were tired out the men would get fresh horses and rope or lasso the wild ones, then break them to ride. There were plenty of them.

There were turkey, prairie chicken and buffalo, lots of them.

Red Root, Medicine

Red Root was used for almost everything that could be wrong with you, owing to how made and used. It made a tea

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like Sassafras bark which was a good laxative, or else it could be made so it would make you ~~throw up~~ vomit. It was also good to take a bath in.

Ispahecha War.

I was a married woman during the Ispahcha War. We didn't go anywhere, but both my brothers were on Ispahecha's side, neither of them were killed but a lot of others were. The men went down by Green Leaf (Indian) Town. (Close to Okemah) That was where their worst fighting was.

I belong to the Tulsa Canadian Town and Little Cussehta (Methodist) Church.

Grave of John Perryman.

John Perryman was a Civil War soldier on the Confederate side. He is buried right south of the Coal Creek bridge south of here on the Henryetta, Dewar Highway. The people who live there plow right over the grave. It looks like it would be against the law to plow over a grave. He was my only husband. We had five children but they are all dead, my sisters and brothers are dead too.